

Cannock & Rugeley

CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 29, 2018

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HOMES TO GET NOD AT FACTORY SITE

Report by Tom Oakley

A HOUSING estate at a former valve works could finally be given the go-ahead this week – three years after plans for the site were first unveiled.

Proposals for up to 116 homes at the former Parker Hannifin site at Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown, have been recommended for approval by Cannock Chase District Council officers.

The eight-acre plot had previously been targeted for a 93-home development submitted by Schroder Property but the council's planning committee rejected the proposal because the firm claimed it was too expensive to deliver any affordable housing.

Meanwhile, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) behind the most recent application, has vowed to allocate up to 23 affordable properties in its scheme.

The land was previously earmarked by the council as a strategic site for housing in its long-term development strategy.

Conditions

The council's planning committee, which has been recommended to approve the project subject to a number of conditions, was set to make a decision on the plans at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Provisions includes the completion of a section 106 agreement between the developers and local authority, to secure the provision of 20 per cent affordable housing and almost £40,000 for off-site provision and enhancement of public open space among other criteria.

The HCA, backed by property consultancy, Cushman & Wakefield, are behind the outline plans for the housing development at the brownfield site.

Plans to redevelop the old manufacturing plant first came to light in March 2015, when an application emerged to build 93 homes at the site.

Parker Hannifin moved from the eight-acre factory site in Bridgtown about 11 years ago with the loss of 140 jobs.

Claire Biddle from the HCA's planning and development team said: "The proposals will visually and physically improve this brownfield site, providing green space and an attractive frontage along Walkmill Lane."

"The wider area is becoming more residential in character, and the proposed mixture of housing and apartments will contribute to this growing neighbourhood."

CANOEISTS MAKE SPLASH IN MARATHON EVENT



Elliott Coops takes off for the Gailey Canoe club annual flat water marathon race on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal

DOZENS of canoeists powered along a canal for a marathon event.

Gailey Canoe Club were the hosts, welcoming top canoeists from across the Midlands and beyond to race down the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

The races were organised as part of the Hasler Series of flat water canoeing contests from the likes of Runcorn and Bristol.

The Series is named after Herbet 'Blondie' Hasler, who led Operation Frankton, a Sec-

ond World War commando raid in double kayaks on the port of Bordeaux. The story of the raid was made into a 1955 film, The Cockleshell Heroes.

Gailey Canoe Club secretary Louise Clive said the event had proved a resounding success. She said: "It went brilliantly – the weather definitely did us a favour.

"We are the third event of the year and the previous two were called off because of bad weather – so we got the first one.

"It makes a massive difference having the sun out and everyone was raring to get back out."

Some 92 canoeists from 13 different clubs took to the water on Sunday for races ranging from four to 12 miles.

Canoeists carried out loops of the canal from the club's base off Croft Lane in Gailey.

Mrs Clive, who runs the club alongside her husband John, said: "Our oldest member is 74 and he was out there at the weekend."

CRIME

Bogus callers con elderly couple out of £11,000 savings

BOGUS water officials conned an elderly Great Wyrley couple out of £11,000 of their hard-earned savings. The grandparents say they now lost faith in their water.

Kath Chetter says she was conned into opening the front door to the bogus officials on March 13. She and her husband Ray had been saving the cash to plan their funerals. Three valuable blue crested chickens were also taken.

Mrs Chetter, aged 83, let the man in after he claimed the mains on their road had burst and he needed to turn off their water. Her husband was ill in bed and it was only when Mrs Chetter saw a second man in her living room with a bag in his hand, that she realised she was being burgled.

Family member Matt Boddie said: "They had saved money to pay for their funeral costs so the burden wouldn't be on their family when the time came. They have both worked so hard and this whole incident is totally heartbreaking."

"As they had recently been having problems with their water supply, they just accepted that these men in reflective jackets were there to help them."

A Staffordshire police spokesman said: "We are warning people to be on their guard against suspicious callers at the door."

Mrs Chetter said her confidence had now 'gone completely' and that she would 'never trust again'.

An appeal has been set up to recover what was lost at justgiving.com/crowdfund-ing/matthew-boddie

THEFT

Eight lambs stolen and two found dead

EIGHT lambs were stolen and another two found dead at a farm in Penkridge.

Two other lambs were found dead and an adult was injured. It happened overnight between Friday and Saturday.

Anyone with any information should call 101 and quote log number 66 of March 24.

INSIDE

Champ Groves packs a punch



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Heartbreak prompts marathon effort



Raul Romero and Lesley Knight

A PERSONAL trainer will run the London Marathon for one of his clients after hearing her heartbreak story.

Raul Romero was training Lesley Knight, from Burntwood, last year when she told him how she had lost her only child Tom, aged 11, in a road accident.

Since then, she has been supporting the HELP Appeal dedicated to funding hospital helipads. The 39-year-old decided he wanted to help too, and so has trained relentlessly for the 26 mile run in April to honour his promise to help Lesley and raise money for the HELP Appeal, for which she is an ambassador.

To sponsor Raul and help him reach his tar-

get of £800, visit www.justgiving.com/fund-raising/RaulRomero

Meanwhile, a keen runner who works at Cannock-based Briggs Equipment is on track to pound the streets of the capital after reaching her fundraising target for the company's chosen charity - Newlife the Charity for Disabled Children.

Toni Collier raised £2,000 through sponsorship and events including a Christmas raffle and an 80s night at The Soldiers Club in Halesowen. Briggs Equipment topped up by £500 so Toni reached the target needed to win a place on Newlife's marathon team for the event taking place on April 22.



Toni Collier

Oatcake to get a tasty tribute for good causes

THE biggest-ever celebration of the oatcake is being planned.

With the help of Staffordshire County Council and other local authorities, Enjoy Staffordshire is co-ordinating the World's Biggest Oatcake Morning, with events taking place across the county on Staffordshire Day - Tuesday, May 1.

Taking inspiration from Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning, the events will see guests make donations to charity to cover the cost of their oatcakes and other refreshments.

Hosts can support a charity of their choice, or pick from a list of good causes suggested by Enjoy Staffordshire, which will help publicise the events and provide promotional materials.

Charities

Enjoy Staffordshire is also encouraging charities to organise their own oatcake morning fundraisers, with The Douglas Macmillan Hospice at Stoke-on-Trent the first to get on board.

Councillor Mark Winnington, cabinet member for economic growth at Staffordshire County Council and vice-chairman of Enjoy Staffordshire, said: "There is no better way to celebrate Staffordshire Day than by tucking into a great local delicacy like an oatcake."

"We want as many oatcake mornings going on across the county as possible."

For further information, visit www.enjoystaffordshire.com/staffsday

Libraries survey deadline nears

TIME is running out to have a say on Staffordshire's libraries consultation.

More than 1,400 responses have already been received in advance of the April 1 deadline. A series of public events have been held at libraries and mobile and travelling library stops throughout the 12-week consultation.

Discussions have included potentially using technology to maintain and extend opening hours with an automated service, possibly increasing the number of community managed libraries and reviewing how the mobile and travelling service is used.

Anyone else who wants to share their opinion can fill in a questionnaire at a library, email connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk or go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries

Sappers' AGM date

THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Association will hold their AGM at The Drill Hall (Army Reserve Centre), in Walsall Road, Bridgtown, on Tuesday, April 10 at 8pm. All Sappers are welcome to attend. Further information is available by calling 01543 423319.



Snow pics around the Cannock area, Cannock Chase..



Brownhills High Street is deserted due to the snow



Snow drifts off Pottal Pool Road, in March, 2013

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Fraudsters claim to be police to steal money

FRAUDSTERS are cold calling victims purporting to be police officers in Staffordshire.

Police have been made aware of a reoccurring crime where victims are being cold called by 'fake officers'.

Their aim is to obtain money as well as personal and financial information.

Victims have received a phone call from a fraudster who tells them they are speaking to a police officer and that they need them to assist in an investigation. The caller provides a call number and states which constabulary they are calling from - making the call more believable.

The fraudster tells the victim that they are in possession of a bank card in their name and asks them to confirm their bank account details.

They then advise them to call another number where they are then advised that they are at risk of being defrauded and required to withdraw or transfer money in order to assist with the investigation.

Staffordshire Police are urging people never to give out personal or financial information to anyone over the phone and pointing out that banks and the police would never ask someone to aid an investigation by withdrawing or transferring money.

Anyone who receives one of these calls should end it immediately and call Staffordshire Police on 101 or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Churches' salute to all seafarers

THE world's oldest maritime welfare charity is asking churches in Cannock to remember the world's seafarers in a special service.

Congregations from around the world will take part in Sea Sunday services on July 8 in aid of the Sailors' Society. Each year, the Christian charity, which celebrated its 200th birthday on March 18, asks churchgoers to pray and give thanks for the world's 1.6 million seafarers.

Sailors' Society CEO Stuart Rivers said: "Whether they know it or not, the people of Cannock rely upon seafarers. More than 90 per cent of everything we own comes by sea - our clothes, phones, cars - even the bricks that make up our homes."

Visit www.seasundayhero.org

Ale House opens

DRINKERS are raising a glass after a new micropub opened its doors. Andy's Ale House can be found in the Quinton Precinct off Wardless Lane, Great Wyrley. Cannock Chase Camra says it is 'delighted' at the news.

Good news bell is launched at hospital



Sandra Perkins tries out the bell

A 'GOOD NEWS' bell to celebrate the end of a patient's cancer treatment has been installed at a hospital.

Olympic athlete Denise Lewis attended the unveiling ceremony at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton where she chatted to patients and staff. Another bell is due to be installed at Cannock Chase Hospital.

The bell is designed to give patients the chance to shout out about their big moment after their final chemotherapy session.

It is also a symbol of hope for patients still undergoing treatment. One

of the first people to use it was Sandra Perkins, who underwent a three-week course of radiography after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

She said: "It is absolutely marvelous to ring that bell as it is a big day for me. The treatments have gone quite quickly thanks to the amazing staff who treated and supported me."

The bell was officially launched by Gillian Phillips, chairwoman of Breast Cancer Support Group, who was instrumental in obtaining it.

Funded by the charity End of Treatment Bells, the New Cross bell

is located outside the reception to Deanesly Ward. The Cannock Chase bell will be installed in the chemotherapy unit.

Tracey Weetman, Macmillan nurse consultant in cancer care at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, said: "I am truly delighted that both chemotherapy and radiotherapy patients will be able to mark the end of a significant phase in their treatment by ringing the bell. I am honoured and privileged to be here."

The Cannock Chase Hospital bell is due to be unveiled shortly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A38 crash man dies in hospital

A MAN died in hospital four days after being seriously injured in a crash.

Matthew Dittmer, aged 29, from Burton, died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Wednesday.

His car he was driving was involved in a collision on the A38 northbound on Saturday, March 17.

His family are being supported by specially trained officers and have requested that their privacy is respected at this time.

Anyone who witnessed the collision and is yet to come forward is asked to contact Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting incident number 876 of March 17.

No rise in tipping despite charges

CHARGES at Staffordshire tips have not contributed to a rise in long-term fly-tipping, council figures show.

A county council report says the number of fly-tipping incidents stayed unchanged over the 12 months after the charge began in November 2016 or they rose briefly before decreasing again. It adds that April-June 2017 saw the lowest number of 'small scale' fly-tipping incidents for two years.

However, Gill Heath, community chief at the council, said: "There has been a rise in recent years of criminal gangs dumping tons of commercial waste in the countryside."

Schools stage cuts protests

ALMOST 100 schools in Staffordshire and the Black Country staged protests against cuts to education funding.

Cannock

Firefighters will tackle a 240-mile bike ride to raise money for two good causes.

Cannock Fire Station's watch manager Russ Brown will cycle from Uttoxeter to Combe Martin in Devon.

He will be joined by fellow watch manager Mitch Stafford, who works at Uttoxeter as well as David Clewlow, a firefighter in Leek and Cannock colleague Jason Humphries.

They begin the mammoth task on Monday - raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity and Macmillan Cancer Support. Mr Brown's father is currently being treated for lung cancer.

He said: "We really want to raise as much as possible, which is why we are attempting such a mammoth task, to cycle 240 miles, which none of us have ever attempted in a week let alone two days."

Donate at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RussellBrown14

Blazing a trail on 240-mile cycle ride



Firefighters Russell Brown, Jason Humphries and Mitch Stafford, who are cycling from Cannock to Devon for two worthwhile causes

Canal trust couple's invitation for cuppa

LICHFIELD'S canal trust is offering an Easter Saturday day out with a difference.

Erin Wood, president of Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, and his wife Doreen have extended an open invitation to their all-day Easter Coffee Morning.

Admission is free to the event, which will run from 10am to 4pm, at 6 Swan Cottages, Burton Road, Whittington.

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Landlords put off by stamp fee bid

THE change in stamp duty has put the majority of landlords off investing in further rental property, according to the Residential Landlords Association.

It says the additional three per cent on buy-to-let homes has seen 69 per cent of landlords deterred from fresh investment.

Jonathon Ivory, managing director of Atlas Residential, said: "Just as the UK needs more rental homes than ever before, the stamp duty change has significantly dented investors' interest in providing those homes."

"Thankfully, the build-to-rent sector is growing rapidly."

Redrow urges pay rise for trainees

HOUSEBUILDER Redrow in the Midlands is calling for higher wages for apprentices and a complete rethink in the way they are taught English and maths.

The firm wants increased apprentice pay rates, saying that low wages are putting young people off schemes.

In addition, Redrow's new report Building Better Apprenticeships found that one in 10 parents in the Midlands say loss of family benefits when their child starts is a problem.

Also, maths and English tuition as part of an apprenticeship is 'not fit for purpose' says Redrow, and is too theoretical according to education experts.

Cheers! As firms brew up bronze

BREWERIES in Brownhills, Bewdley and Stone took bronze medals at an awards. Judging took place at the Beer X event in Liverpool.

Backyard Brewhouse, Brownhills, was third in the cask premium bitter and pale ale category with its 4.45 per cent Gold. Bewdley Brewery took bronze with 3.6 per cent Worcestershire Way in the keg category and Stone's Limestone Brewery did the same with Cherry Stone, a 5.2 per cent beer, in the small pack section.

Call first, message to people with bugs

THE West Midlands branch of Public Health England is urging people to support their local NHS by calling before visiting health services if they are ill with a stomach bug.

The request comes after significantly higher levels of stomach bugs, including norovirus, have been recorded in the region. Dr Helen Carter said: "People feeling unwell can call their GP or NHS111 for advice."

Janet has magic touch for her first novel



Janet Lee

A FORMER reporter with the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, has written her first full-length novel. Mistress Magic is Janet Lee's fifth publication.

Semi-autobiographical about her time as a singer in a rock band, it also delves into the world of magic and paranormal, as well as in-

cluding an intense love story. It centres on Janine, lead singer of a band called Mistress, who is a teacher with a taste for leather mini-skirts and thigh-length boots.

The band is doing well, but strange, mystical things keep happening at their concerts. One show in Manchester gets the band recognised

more for their special effects than their music, but it also gets them banned.

Then, Janine meets Dion, lead singer of Son of Gabriel, and life changes altogether.

However, as his dark side emerges, will the magical phenomena stay with them?

Janet, who lives in Norton Canes, has a long-term part-

ner Alex, a son Kevin and two grandchildren, Tom and Grace.

A retired lecturer in English and creative writing, she runs a charity, Paul's Fun Fund, which raises money for leukaemia research as a tribute to her eldest son Paul, who lost his battle with the disease in 2011, aged 37.



The book cover

Royal Mail gives nod to Brereton's address bid

AN MP has welcomed Royal Mail's decision to include Brereton in the postal address system.

It follows calls from local residents and Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council to keep the name alive.

Previously, Royal Mail, which organises the postal address system, listed only 47 properties in the parish with Brereton in the address, despite there being more than 1,000 houses there.

A public consultation was carried out, and the change was backed by an overwhelming majority of residents.

The change to the official address to include Brereton has now been implemented by Royal Mail.

Residents have received letters from Royal Mail confirming the change, but while Brereton has been included in the address it is essential that Rugeley is included in residents' addresses too, Royal Mail says. If omitted, mail could be subject to delay.

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling said: "As a resident of Brereton, I understand how the village has a very strong identity and community spirit, and residents are incredibly proud of this. I am very pleased that Royal Mail have agreed to recognise Brereton's unique status and will include 'Brereton' in the postal address for all houses in the village."

She added: "Whilst it is fantastic news that Brereton has been recognised and will be included in the official address for all houses in the village, it is important that residents continue to include Rugeley and their postcode too, otherwise they may find that their post is subject to delays in being delivered."

Water company's £62k for charity

A WATER firm has raised more than £62,000 for charity – and is supporting a local special needs school with a £1,000 donation.

South Staffs Water made the announcement to mark World Water Day – March 22 – which raises awareness of water-related issues. The initiative was started by the charity WaterAid, which aims to transform millions of lives by providing clean water.

Among the fundraising activities so far has been a charity ball which took place in January and helped raise the majority of the total to date.

The company has also contributed £1,000 to pay for 10 pupils from Castle Business and Enterprise College in Walsall to participate in a residential visit to Beautesert Park.

£2m funding pledge to tackle county's potholes

By David Coggrave

MORE than £2 million of funding has been awarded to tackle potholes on roads in Staffordshire.

The county was given £2.2m of a £3m cashpot from the Department for Transport following damage caused by freezing winter conditions.

The cash is on top of £75 million in Government funding already given to councils this year, as well as a £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said: "People rely on good roads to get to work and to see friends or family."

"We have seen an unusually prolonged spell of freezing weather which has caused damage to our local roads.

Treatments

"We are giving councils even more funding so all road users can enjoy their journeys without having to dodge potholes."

In Staffordshire the county council has already pledged to spend an extra £5m on potholes and preventative treatments this year – on top of the £5m extra it spent last year.

Helen Fisher, cabinet support member for highways and transport, said: "Good roads are important not only for getting us from A to B, but for continuing to grow a strong economy."

"In Staffordshire, we will have invested an extra £10m over two years both in tackling potholes and in preventative treatment to help stop them occurring in the first place."

Last year this allowed us to fix around 35,000 potholes compared to 20,000 in a typical year. With a county the size of Staffordshire this is always going to be a challenge so I am pleased that the Government has announced this extra funding."

Heart screening in memory of Neil



Neil Bradbury, who died suddenly at the age of 35, with girlfriend Amy Windle

TWO heart-screening days were held in honour of a man who died suddenly of an undiagnosed heart condition.

Kingsmead High School in Hednesford hosted the events in memory of Neil Bradbury, alongside Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

The screening days were organised by Neil's long-term girlfriend, Amy Windle, and his family after Neil, of Littleworth Road, Hednesford, died in November 2015 at the age of 35.

Throughout the weekend, 186 people, aged 14 to 35, were tested to ensure they had no cardiac abnormalities. Of the 186 tested, three people were referred to their GP

for further testing. Since Neil's death, Amy and his family have raised more than £13,500 for CRY, which paid for the two heart-screening days to take place.

Amy said: "Losing Neil so suddenly was absolutely devastating. Alongside Neil's family and friends, I've been so determined to raise the money for the two screening days in Neil's memory."

"If one life has been saved by our screening weekend, Neil's death will not have been in vain."

Amy and Neil's family are focusing their fundraising efforts on providing communities with defibrillators.

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Songs for You to help dementia sufferers

HUNDREDS of dementia sufferers are set to get singing as music sessions thanks to funding worth £15,000.

The money will support the Songs for You programme taking place in Stafford, as well as Cannock and Shrewsbury, over the next couple of years, with more than 500 people set to take part.

The Arts for Health team at South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded the funding from the Postcode Community Trust.

Songs for You provides fortnightly singing sessions for people with dementia, their carers and older adults to come together and sing well-known songs as well as some new ones in a safe and friendly environment.

The project is for people who love to sing, have an interest in music or just want to be somewhere joyous and friendly – where they can share interests with others.

Songs for You will be at Walton Village Hall in Green Gore Lane, from April 16 at 1.30pm.

The Cannock sessions start at St Thomas's Church, Stafford Road, Huntington, from April 10 at 1.30pm and in Shrewsbury on April 12 at 2.30pm, at the Trinity Centre, Meole Brace Church.

For more information call Arts for Health project worker Helen Wilson on 07964 208542.

Bosses hopeful over Swift card

COUNCIL bosses are hopeful that Swift card machines will be introduced on the Chase Line 'in the next few weeks'.

They will be introduced at stations including Rugeley Town, Hednesford and Cannock where there will be self-service kiosks which can issue photo cards following a trial in Wolverhampton.

The leader of Cannock Chase Council, Councillor George Adamson, said: "We have asked if it can expand into Cannock and it looks like it should be in place in the next few weeks."

"The card is better for commuters to travel because it gets them off the roads and it makes trains cheaper."

"It will encourage people to use public transport," he added.

Ramblers' outing

CHASE Ramblers' walk this Sunday is an eight-mile moderate walk from Hamstall Ridware, meeting at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am prompt departure. Call 01543 574036. New walkers are welcome.

Go karting day in memory of tragic Paul



Paul Lee-Davis on the race track

A GO KARTING charity event is to be held on Saturday in memory of Cannock man Paul Lee-Davis, who died from a rare form of leukaemia.

Paul's friend Dan Underhill is running the event for the seventh year in a row. Dan and Paul used to race together at Club100, near Daventry, where the event is being held.

Paul died of T-cell prolymphocytic leukaemia (T-PLL) in 2011.

He was a familiar face at Club100 and was known to many as a larger-than-life, hilarious and fun-loving friend. Dan and Paul's racing friends

honour his memory each year by coming together to do what Paul loved most and raise money to help fund research into his extremely rare and aggressive cancer.

Admission to the event is free and there will be a food wagon and auction with prizes such as two VIP tickets to the West End show Fastlove.

The go karting event raises funds for research into T-PLL at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), London.

Over the last six years the event has raised £26,000. The racers buy tickets

to take part, with proceeds going to the ICR. Tickets to race have already sold out so the organisers expect this year's event to be just as successful as the last.

Dan said: "Paul was such a fantastic friend. We raced together for many years. The response we receive every year is amazing, I'm so grateful for everyone that supports the race day."

Paul's mother Janet Lee said: "I didn't know anyone who didn't like Paul." To support the event and donate to the ICR visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pld2018

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three cars stolen in the same night

CARS worth more than £20,000 were stolen during a spate of burglaries in Rugeley.

Police are urging residents to check security following the two reports overnight in Richardson Way and Durham Drive on Thursday.

The thieves approached the two houses and forced entry before stealing car keys and escaping.

A white Audi Q2 was stolen from Richardson Way and a blue Ford Mondeo and white Audi A3 from Durham Drive. Anyone who saw or heard anything should call the police on 101 quoting incident numbers 115 and 88 of March 23.

Two men held as drugs are found

TWO men were arrested after a machete and drugs were found in a car in Cannock. A 44-year-old man from West Bromwich and a 41-year-old man from Birmingham were stopped in Old Fallow Road, Cannock, at 10.30pm on Sunday.

A large amount of Class A drugs and a small amount of cannabis were recovered from the grey VW Golf that had been tracked from Tipton.

They were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and possession of an offensive weapon. They remain in police custody and enquiries are ongoing.

Laundry supplier among winners

A HEDNESFORD laundry business is among a dozen firms to win regional awards from the Federation of Small Businesses.

Laundry Efficiency is a specialist in providing small to medium-sized commercial laundries with products and services which help reduce their carbon footprint and save money.

It beat off stiff competition to be named West Midlands Ethical Green Business of the Year – one of 12 award category winners at the FSB Celebrating Small Business Awards at The National Conference Centre in Solihull.

Great Gambo will recall his broadcasting career

PAUL Gambaccini is celebrating his 45th anniversary in broadcasting with a series of live theatre dates, including a show at Lichfield Garrick on May 4.

An Evening With The Great Gambo – The Professor of Pop will see the current BBC Radio 2 Pick of the Pops presenter reveal for the first time how he started out life as a boy in the Bronx and wound up as The Professor of Pop in Great Britain. The show will also include a Q&A and pop quiz.



Tim and Julie Elsmore during a holiday in Lanzarote – one of their favourite photos

Blaze at storage container site

A BLAZE at a huge shipping containers yard in Cannock went on for nearly three hours with smoke plumes visible for miles around.

It happened last Wednesday morning after hydraulic lifting machinery at the 30-acre site in Pentalver Way caught fire.

A member of staff using the equipment to move storage con-

tainers noticed something smelled like it was burning.

When he got off the machine to investigate, he noticed it was on fire. Staff were immediately evacuated and the depot shut down until it was safe to re-open.

Firefighters from Cannock and Bloxwich were called to the scene of the container storage and dis-

tribution site at about 10am. A Staffordshire Fire and Rescue spokesman confirmed one heavy lifting machine had set alight.

The Environment Agency was also made aware due to the large amount of diesel in the area.

Pentalver Cannock general manager Nick Matthews said there were no injuries.

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Curtain up on many more years of misery

WALKING through Dudley at the weekend, doing the weekly search for the shops, it struck me. Wandering between Dudley College Evolve, Dudley College Aspire, Dudley College Broadway Campus, and Dudley College Sixth, I realised: what this town really needs is another college campus.

Actually, that's not strictly true. In that it's not true at all. But it does seem to be the thought process of the leader of Dudley Council, who a few weeks ago spoke of "some exciting plans" for the town's disused Hippodrome theatre.

The exciting plans, it turns out, involve asking Dudley College if it would like to knock down the Hippodrome and build a college building on the site, ending "years of misery". Which is interesting, because when the council bought the theatre eight years ago, it said it was part of a comprehensive regeneration scheme to "create a leisure and tourism hub". Nothing was said about "years of misery".

Seriously, though, what would actually be less exciting than another college building in the town? A national paint-drying exhibition? An audience with Karen Brady? A couple of hours listening to Wolves supporters droning on about their Champions League ambitions?

Councillor Patrick Harley says the college has been at the forefront of the town's regeneration, and it has spent a lot of money on new buildings, many of them very nice. But does filling prime development sites with buildings most of us will never set foot in really constitute "regeneration"? Yes it will bring students into town, which is great for Greggs and Costa. But students, by definition, tend to have low disposable incomes. A strange way of reviving a struggling high street.

Now, I'm sorry if I keep banging on about this, and perhaps it is time to take up stamp collecting or something. But it is hard to think how successive councils, of both colours, could have handled this worse.

First, the "years of misery" were brought on entirely by the council using taxpayers' money to buy a building it had no real plans for. Then it misjudged the public mood, assuming it could be quietly demolished without fuss. It then attempted to quell the inevitable backlash with a string of uninspiring plans. And when a private company wanted to invest £8 million in the theatre, it dithered about car parking. Now the council has run out of patience.

Realistically, we can't expect councils to pour millions into renovating old theatres. But if this is the best it can come up with, then I suspect there will be many more years of misery to come.

If fee was agreed for tennis TV work stop complaining



Christopher Eccleston – now does not refer to his time on Doctor Who



Martina Navratilova – not happy that she was paid less than John McEnroe



Boris Johnson – was this just a sudden case of Biggles Syndrome

Serving up moans over pay equality

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ARE you beginning to suffer from equality overload? Me, too. Martina Navratilova complains that she was paid "only" £15,000 for her stint as a commentator at Wimbledon while John McEnroe got "at least £150,000." Really? So flippin' what? Is it worth pointing out that, at the peak of their game, both of these tennis stars were paid much, much more than the ball boys? In spats like this involving the super-rich there's only one question that should be asked: Were you paid the sum that you or your agent negotiated and agreed to accept? If the answer is yes, stop wasting our time.

IF tennis throws up pay anomalies, God help us if the equality police get to work on Glastonbury. I strongly suspect that performers at music festivals are paid not by gender, age or race but solely on the basis of their market value.

AND while we're at it, has anyone noticed that the winner in Olympic sports gets a gold medal but the runner-up only gets silver and number three gets bronze? How long can this go on?

I WAS rather hoping the Cambridge Analytica data scandal was going to fade away before I had to pretend I understood it.

BUT basically it's about the harvesting, selling and misuse of billions of items of personal information about millions of Facebook users. Yet surely it only qualifies as a genuine scandal if those people are scandalised. Are they?

IF you remember the Cold War and George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-four, you belong to a generation which grew up cherishing privacy and living in fear of Big Brother. But to-

day millions of people seem not only willing but eager to blab every detail of their own lives on social media. Secrets tortured out of Winston Smith in Room 101 are today freely volunteered. Some folk seem perfectly relaxed about their information being bought and sold, so long as it gets them a fleeting moment of fame or makes buying things on eBay a nano-second quicker. Middle-aged liberal hacks and crusty politicians may queue up to express outrage at this cyber-scandal but how many kids give a damn?

A TIME Lord has become a non-person. There is clearly no love lost between Christopher Eccleston and the BBC whom he accuses of putting him on a blacklist after he left Doctor Who. Starring as Macbeth at Stratford (and doing a brilliant job), the actor's attitude to Auntie Beeb is seen in the production's programme where artists list the film, theatre and TV work of which they are most proud. Eccleston's lengthy CV does not even mention Doctor Who.

A QUICK-build bridge collapsed in Florida, killing six people. Councils all over the States are waiting to find out why. As one official in Wisconsin put it: "We want to . . . see if any of the lessons learned would be applicable here." Bridges have been with us since the first caveman laid a tree across a stream a million years ago. The problem is not discovering new lessons. It's remembering old ones.

YEARS from now historians will wonder how a

British foreign secretary made the quantum leap from a few traces of nerve agent in Salisbury to personally blaming the Russian president. And then they will examine the footage more closely and notice that Boris Johnson was speaking at the Battle of Britain Bunker museum in Uxbridge, standing right in front of the most iconic warplane of all time. Boris may have been suffering from a sudden case of Biggles Syndrome, an irrational stirring of the blood caused by close exposure to a Supermarine Spitfire.

BIGGLES Syndrome can be serious. At about the same time as Boris was going off-script, I watched a 1944 DC-3 Dakota transport plane fly over in black-and-white D-Day livery. I had a sudden impulse to invade Normandy.

NEVER let it be said that, when it comes to punishing the ungodly, readers lack inventiveness. After a court report on a particularly unpleasant attack on two pensioners, here's one online suggestion of what to do with the defendant: "He should have all of his skin removed with acid and a sanding machine, every bone broken with a sledgehammer, every joint destroyed with a power drill, every appendage amputated with garden shears. Only then should he be put out of his misery, by being fed to a swarm of rats." Put him out of his misery? What bleeding-heart, kid-glove liberal nonsense is this? No wonder we lost the Empire.

FAREWELL, winter, and with it the annual debate about what to call the pain when you put frozen hands in warm water after a snowball fight. A friend suggests "finger cramps" but at Chateau Rhodes we are sticking with 'hot aches'. Suggestions welcome (apart from the obvious one that I ought to get out more).



Firms can do more to build their reputation

REGULAR Talking Point readers may recall I previously mentioned a parking fine I received for overstaying my welcome. I suggested common sense would hopefully prevail and that the fine may be waived on appeal. It wasn't. So, accept it, move on, live and learn.

Now another parking matter has led me to think about big firms, how they treat their customers and how word of mouth can enhance – or ruin – a reputation.

My issue this time relates to a car park in Wolverhampton. A number of us travel in together and use a particular car park near the city centre, which is reasonably priced at just £2.40 per day. To obtain a ticket, the last three letters of the car's registration must be inputted.

Fair enough, I suppose, as it prevents a driver leaving the car park from passing on to another just arriving.

We know its aim is to make a profit. However, it is not so easy for customers to get any money back.

One morning, after paying our fee, we realised only the last two letters of the registration had been keyed in. So, fearing this would be noted and action taken, we bought another ticket. This time with the correct three letters.

I rang the company to explain this and was told that if I emailed a brief description with pictures of the tickets the money would be reimbursed. An automated email came back, to say the would be responded to as soon as possible.

A week later, having still not heard anything back, I rang them. "The emails are usually picked up after seven days so contact us again in a week if you've heard nothing," I was politely told.

It was three weeks later before I got in touch again. Guess what? There was no record of my email ever being received.

I was advised to resend the original email, it would go to the top of the pile and be dealt with. The result? Another automated reply, which probably means another seven days before it is even looked at.

And all this for just £2.40. Is it worth it? Well, yes it is. It's my money. How many others, for the sake of a paltry sum would think it's not worth the hassle? How many extra £2.40s is that for the company?

I could refuse to use the car park, or others owned by the firm, and tell others to do the same, reducing its income. There are alternative options after all.

It's in this way that reputations can be built or tarnished. Such actions discourage clients, not attract them – and I believe they should be brought to account.

They make enough money as it is without holding on to my £2.40 as well.

MARK SHIPP



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Funding goes towards helping ex-squaddies



Pictured at Help a Squaddie Breakfast Club are, from left, Councillors Phil Hewitt and Paul Snape, 100-year-old veteran George Pratt, Councillor Bryan Jones and Kerry Urquhart

A £1,500 grant has been donated to a Staffordshire support group helping veterans from the armed services.

Rugeley-based Help a Squaddie was set up by Kerry Urquhart as a support group for veterans who may be homeless, suffer with mental health or addiction issues, unemployment or are simply elderly.

Thanks to the donation from three local county councillors, Kerry and her team have been able to fund 'drop-in' sessions twice a month, for six months at the Salvation Army in Hedgesford.

Veterans can meet for a bite to eat, chat with colleagues and seek 'one stop' advice and signposting to key services. The grant has also funded number of laptops and a printer for the use of the veterans to write CVs, search for and apply for jobs.

Among those supported by Help a Squaddie is 100-year-old George Pratt, recipient of an Arctic Star and Burma Star, who attends the breakfast club. The group, currently seeking charitable status, organised a party for his 100th at his Rugeley home surrounded by family, friends and fellow veterans.

County councillors Phil Hewitt, Paul Snape and Bryan Jones donated £1,527 through the council's Com-

munity Fund. Councillors are allocated £7,500 in grants from the fund to share out among local groups and causes.

Kerry said: "It is wonderful to be able to help our veterans in this way. There is a genuine need out there for many of our veterans who have no one else to turn to and Help a Squaddie is fulfilling that role. We are very grateful to county councillors Bryan, Phil and Paul who have supported us all the way."

Councillor Jones said: "All three of us are passionate about supporting our armed services who make such a sacrifice on all of our behalf. We are all very proud to be able to fund this project."

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Gentleman came to our rescue

THERE have been a lot of stories in the Press and on social media about concert goers being ripped off with the price of tickets.

This has been going on for decades, long before the internet was even mentioned on Tomorrow's World. When I first started going to gigs in the 1970s the only price paid was printed on the ticket, then over the years a 10 per cent booking fee was added, but if you bought tickets in person from the box office, that extra cost didn't apply.

Then an administration cost was added to each ticket, together with a handling charge. In a matter of about 10 years a £40 ticket cost almost £50 with all the add-ons.

What annoyed me was these extra costs weren't mentioned when the

concerts were advertised. The modern tout now hides on the internet hoping to make a tidy profit from fans who just want a good night out. In my opinion the only way to stop tickets being sold at crazy prices is not to buy them. Then when the venues are only half-full perhaps something might be done about it.

PAUL KMOLEK

Hednesford

COULD I thank the gentleman in a grey Berlingo-type van who came to my rescue on Thursday, March 15.

My husband and I entered Sainsbury's petrol forecourt on the Orbital Centre Cannock, only to be hit side-on by a man in a works van.

He obviously didn't look in his mirrors and reversed into us. Our car was un-drivable and I had a short time to get to Cheslyn Hay to pick up my seven-year-old granddaughter from school.

I asked the kind gentleman, who I believe lived at Wimblebury and was on the way to visit his father in Pelsall, if he could take me to Cheslyn Hay. He dropped me right outside the school.

What would I have done without you?

BARBARA HOLLAND

Powys

No suggestion of a 'done deal' on homes

I AM writing to offer a different interpretation and report of the meeting concerning the land on Bleak House where a brochure has been produced to suggest taking the area out of the green belt (Chronicle, March 22).

I was at the meeting and do not recall any resident claiming this was a 'done deal' that 1,000 houses are being built.

It was not reported that during the questions some local residents directly stated an accusation of 'scaremongering' to the organisers. As the Labour candidate for the Rawnsley election, I have knocked on many doors and have met residents that are fearful of this development and some who have the impression building work was imminent.

AARON BATE

Wimblebury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Time simply going down the drain ...

WHAT on Earth is going on with the county highways department?

There seems to be a huge backlog in the clearance of blocked drains.

I recently reported a blocked drain in View Street, Hednesford. On the system it came up that there were previous reports of the same problem, one dating back to June 2017! The note next to it said they are awaiting works to fix the fault. Waiting nine months?

In the meantime, residents have to put up with the inconvenience of flooded roads every time it rains.

This is not an isolated case, it is a problem throughout Staffordshire.

It simply is not good enough.

GEORGE ADAMSON

Cannock

Chase Line speeding to a better service

THOSE promoting HS2 have spent so much of their time talking about journey times that it is not surprising that the general public has found it hard to understand the most important reason for faster train services. The advantages will soon be absolutely clear to those who use the Chase Line from Rugeley and Cannock to Birmingham.

As part of the electrification programme, Chase Line speeds are being increased from 45 to 75mph trimming the journey time between Rugeley and Birmingham from around 57 to 42 minutes. But the advantages are more than that. With the old line-speed a train could do five round trips in a day. With the new line-speed each train can do around eight trips a day. So, with the same number of trains, with the same number of staff, the service can provide two trains per hour throughout the day, doubling the capacity of the rail line for the cost of only a little more fuel.

MARK ELLSE

Cannock

Slalom in Great Wyrley

HAVING recently watched the Winter Olympics, I can't help thinking that I have some of the skills that were on show. Coming downhill in Great Wyrley on my bike, Gorsley Lane, Wardles Lane – what a slalom course. No poles but plenty of holes – very exhilarating.

ROGER ALLEN

Great Wyrley



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Team bowls them over to take title

Rotary Club of Cannock

A TEAM from the Rotary Club of Cannock won the District 1210 tenpin Bowling competition.

The game is one of the events that form part of the Rotary Winter District Sport competitions, played every year. The other sports are snooker, darts and table tennis.

The Rotary District 1210 has 55 clubs that cover most of Staffordshire, Shropshire and parts of West Midlands so winning an event involves many matches before the club reaches the final.

This year's final which was played at the neutral venue of Uttoxeter and was against the Rotary Club of Leek.

The Cannock sports officer and team captain Jacko Page said: "The win was a club effort involving a number of players from the Cannock club, some of whom were unavailable for the final."

He thanked the Rotary of Leek for an excellent game played in a sporting manner.

The Rotary Club of Cannock will soon be taking part in the summer 2018 sports programme of Crown Green Bowling and Croquet.

Rotary is always looking for new members of all ages and backgrounds to join the network of clubs.

For more about the Rotary Club of Cannock, email secretary@cannockrotary.co.uk or visit the club's website at www.cannockrotary.co.uk.



From left, Dr Janis Lomas, Professor Maggie Andrews and Soroptimists friends

CANNOCK Soroptimists were thrilled when club member Dr Janis Lomas had a book published. 'The History of Women in 100 Objects' was written in collaboration with Professor Maggie Andrews and was featured in a national newspaper on International Women's Day. It was launched at the Ditchling Needle Museum on March 10.

The book is available direct from Janis or from bookshops and other outlets.

It contains fascinating articles and pictures on such objects as the washing machine, sanitary towels, Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management and the scolds bridle! The 100 objects tell the tale of women and womanhood and symbolise the journey

SI Cannock & District

of women from second-class citizens with no legal rights, no vote and no official status to the people they are today.

Both women are historians specialising in Women's History. Janis was a lecturer in Women's History at Birmingham University and was a founding member of the Women's History Network.

The two have two more books due for publication, further books in the initial planning stages and a two-day conference in April at the Black Country Living Museum.

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm at the village hall, in East Butts Road. April 11 is the AGM.

at St Joseph's Community Hall, Rugeley. The public can buy tickets on 01889 586040.

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm at the village hall, in East Butts Road. April 11 is the AGM.

Etching Hill WI

had kindly brought in toiletries and home made cakes for donation to St Giles Hospice. Members were invited to purchase tickets at £5 for a fashion show on April 19

Ann thanked those who

PRESIDENT Ann Ingleby welcomed several new guests to the last meeting.

Dr Janis Lomas spoke of her research into the class issues of country house servants during the Victorian/Edwardian era.

Ann thanked those who

Speaker highlights class system

at Etching Hill WI

had kindly brought in toiletries and home made cakes for donation to St Giles Hospice. Members were invited to purchase tickets at £5 for a fashion show on April 19

Ann thanked those who

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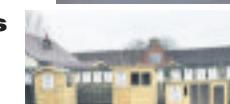
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You can view all of Sofa Gallery's products online via their website – www.sofagallery.co.uk

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New trees boost worldwide challenge



The Rotary Club of Cannock's District Governor Carol Reilly with members of Chase Interact Club

MEMBERS of Chase Grammar School's Interact club and the Rotary Club of Cannock did their bit for a worldwide campaign when they planted saplings in Hedgesford.

Rotary International president Ian Riseley has challenged every Rotarian throughout the world to plant a tree between July 1, July 2017 and April 22, 2018.

Magnus Stephenson from Cannock Rotary said: "We are

proud to have support from Hedgesford Park staff and volunteers including vulnerable adults from Affinity Trust."

Andy Williams, committee member of The Friends of Hedgesford Park, said the saplings were 'part of the regeneration of the woodland at the back of the car park'.

The 30 copse trees – silver birch, rowan and wild cherry – were donated by the Woodland Trust.

Digital surge 'improving lives'

A DIGITAL surge in Staffordshire is improving lives and productivity thanks to an emerging new partnership.

Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire University will be working together to explore a range of opportunities to support the local economy by making the most of the latest technology. The university is renowned for its digital expertise and

aims to create thousands of apprenticeships over the next decade.

Schools are also set to benefit from the university's Microsoft Digital Skills programme, which aims to improve learning and knowledge of students and teachers as well as creating digital apprenticeships.

In addition, a hub for digital innovation will be created in Stafford as part of extending the university's presence across Staffordshire – supporting

businesses and public service organisations in improving efficiency and driving down costs.

Through the partnership, the university will also look to support to develop innovative technology to support vulnerable families.

Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins said: "This partnership means that we can explore cutting edge technology and to think digital first wherever possible."

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Merger of police and fire service approved

FIRE and police services in Staffordshire are set to be merged after government officials gave plans the go-ahead.

The Home Office announced on Monday that Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be governed by the county's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It means that the fire and rescue authority as it stands will fold.

The authority is made up of 21 councillors from Stoke-on-Trent city and Staffordshire county councils.

Staffordshire PCC Matthew Ellis said: "The change to governance and oversight will not affect frontline operations of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Officers and staff should not be unduly worried – it's entirely business as usual."

"This is an opportunity to further improve the way the police and the fire service work together and to ensure more of the funding available goes to frontline services."

"Staffordshire is a large and diverse county, and it's important the future for both services is financially more secure with a period of stability to get on with the

By Annabel Bagdi

difficult jobs they do. I'm sure everyone would want to thank the various city councillors and county councillors for their time on the fire and rescue authority," Mr Ellis added.

The plans will see more streamlined back office functions and governance structure, bringing savings of more than £5 million a year, which is expected to be ploughed back into frontline services.

Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant welcomed the news, saying he was 'delighted and relieved' the fire service will come under the PCC's authority. He said: "This is very good news for the people of Staffordshire and firefighters."

Tying the knot on
finding love in 80s



Newlyweds Elizabeth and Brian Nickless on their big day at Cannock Registry Office

LOVE is just as lovely the second time around for sweethearts Elizabeth and Brian Nickless who have married in their 80s.

The newlyweds, who have eight grandchildren between them, were married for 60 years to other people before taking the plunge again at Cannock Registry Office. They met at a nursing home in Cannock when visiting their partners, who died within months of each other in 2015.

They continued their friendship until Brian, 83, decided to propose. The retired gas fitter said: "It's not just companionship, like most people think. We're madly in love."

He added: "I hadn't planned to propose but it just seemed right. We first met at the MRI Club in Stafford 40 years ago and knew there was something special about her."

Brian's son Simon was best man, 86-year-old Bet's son-in-law Tony Cummings gave away the bride and her daughter Sylvia was matron of honour.



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Patient left waiting for 18 hours in A&E

Knife crime is hot topic



Matthew Ellis with parties involved in the debate on knife crime

EDUCATION and prevention were the key action points to emerge from a debate in Staffordshire on knife crime.

Hosted by Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis, the discussion featured young people from both sides of the Atlantic featuring 17 criminology students from US institutions along with members of the Staffordshire Youth Commis-

sion. Also contributing with powerful and emotional accounts were Alison Cope, whose son was stabbed outside a Birmingham nightclub in 2013, former convicted gang member Darryl Laycock, Supt Ricky Fields and other campaigners.

Mr Ellis said: "The issues raised will contribute to a wider piece of work across agencies that I will be commissioning shortly."

A PATIENT was made to wait for almost 18 hours in A&E at a Staffordshire hospital this month.

New data shows the patient was forced to wait in the emergency department for a total of 1,075 minutes before being treated.

The average waiting time for a patient was 115 minutes, while the lowest was just a minute.

The figures were released as part of a Freedom of Information request made by hospital campaigner and Stafford councillor Louise Nixon to the University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) NHS Trust, which runs both Stafford's County Hospital and Royal Stoke Hospital. It is unclear where the incident – which happened sometime between March 1 and 14 – happened.

Chief executive of UHNM, Paula Clark said: "This winter has been extremely challenging for the health system in the North Midlands.

Backdrop

"Clearly it's not acceptable for a patient to be waiting to be seen for that length of time, but our staff have worked incredibly hard throughout winter against a backdrop of unprecedented demand to treat the most seriously ill patients as quickly as possible.

"There were a number of factors that contributed to some new arrivals into A&E not being treated quickly, including high numbers of patients with influenza, an increase in the acuity of patients and the amount of medically fit for discharge patients throughout our hospitals."

Ms Clark added: "In order to help manage the situation we implemented a number of emergency measures beyond our original Winter Plan.

"These included opening an additional 189 escalation beds, the cancellation of non-urgent surgery for the whole of January to create additional capacity and cancelled outpatient appointments to release staff to care for inpatients."

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Reputation

The company has built a reputation locally on delivering the most in-demand fireplace products, including made-to-measure marble and stone surrounds.

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The newly-refurbished and improved showroom has more than 100 top brand fireplaces and surrounds on display, with a selection of live displays so you can see the fireplaces in action.

And the company is confident it will find you a perfect fireplace to match your home! They are now offering one of their best offers EVER.

Throughout the Easter period they are offering all their customers £200 off



So many fireplaces on show for you to choose from

ANY fireplace and fire when they are purchased together. Sales manager Phil said: "We have been working hard throughout the last couple of months to have the showroom looking the best it's ever looked.

"So we wanted to give away a top saving to all our customers. We will be offering this great offer starting from Good Friday and running through to

the following Saturday, April 7." As well as this great offer they are also selling off some of its ex-display showroom models so there will be many bargains in store to suit all their customers' needs.

Be sure to pop along. Sale starts 10am Good Friday, March 30, and ends Saturday, April 7 or visit www.nortoncanesfireplacefactory.co.uk

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Top award collected by courier company



Peter Roper presents the awards to Matt Evans from Family Business Practice at a gala dinner

A CANNOCK courier firm, which has grown from small beginnings as a family-owned petrol station, has been recognised with a top award.

EDS Couriers, of Wimblebury Road, was honoured for its 50-year history under the guidance of three generations of the Evans family, winning the Midlands Family Business of the Year 2018 at the Midlands Business Awards.

Originally Palfrey Service Station, the company was founded by Leonard and Joan Evans in the 1960s. It was taken over by their two sons, Andy and Gary, in 1988, and they have expanded, partnering with APC Overnight and Palletforce to offer global delivery service from its two depots in Cannock and Stoke.

Andy's son, Matt, now managing director, said: "I'm sure nan and granddad had no idea that, 50 years on, it would have evolved into a multi-million pound courier firm with two depots, a fleet of 75 trucks and 140 staff."

Overall crime rose across

Force must do more to protect vulnerable

STAFFORDSHIRE Police has been ranked good overall in a watchdog report – but told to improve how it protects vulnerable people.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) praised the force for its approach to tackling serious and organised crime. It was described by inspectors as being 'good at keeping people safe and reducing crime'.

But areas of concern included the fact that, daily, 10 per cent of 101 calls are not answered.

Meanwhile, HMIC inspectors found backlog of 260 visits to registered sex offenders which should have been carried out. The force said this backlog had since been cleared.

Domestic

Staffordshire has the second lowest rate of domestic abuse arrests in England and Wales. It arrests 32.4 suspects for every 100 domestic abuse-related offences. The national average is 45.5. The force has also been told it needs to improve how it keeps tabs on wanted criminals.

Overall crime rose across

By David Cosgrove

Staffordshire by 13 per cent in the year up to June last year – one per cent lower than the national average increase.

The force was rated as good overall and in inspection categories for 'preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour', 'investigating crime and reducing re-offending', and 'tackling serious and organised crime'.

Accepting that work still needed to be done, Staffordshire Chief Constable Gareth Morgan said: "The report clearly shows that we are good at keeping people safe and reducing crime and are a quality police force able to serve communities of Staffordshire effectively."

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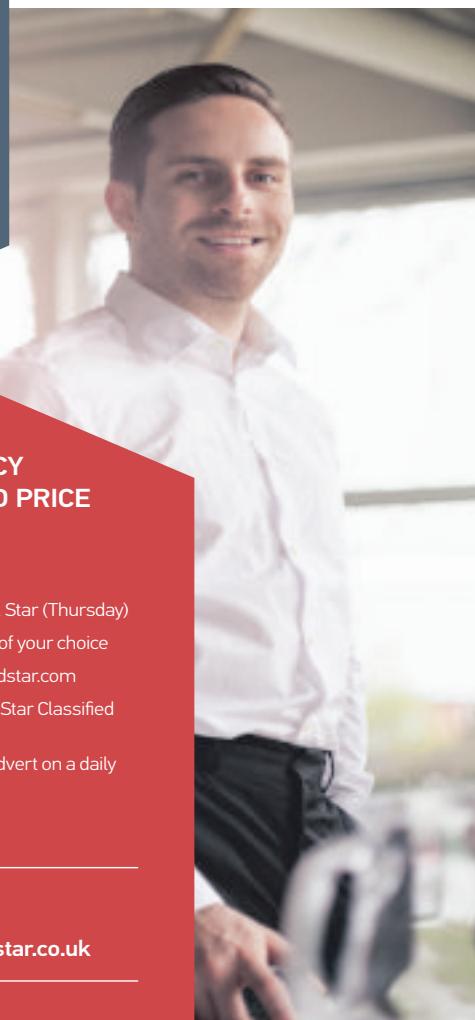
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Race night a winner for food bank



The cheque is handed over to food bank manager Adam Tilsley by Robyn Ennis

A RACE night proved a winner as a cheque for £1,000 was handed over to a food bank.

Members of Burntwood & Hammerwich Branch Labour Party made the donation to Cannock & District Foodbank, along with more than 30kg of food. The cheque was presented to Adam Tilsley, the foodbank manager by Robyn Ennis, the youngest member of the Branch Party.

The money came from the proceeds of a race night at The

Grangemoor Working Mens Club in Burntwood. In 2017, Cannock & District Foodbank issued 4,111 food parcels to help people in crisis within the local area, of which more than 1,400 were children. They operate a Foodbank in Burntwood at Emmanuel Church, Cannock Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Councillor Eric Drinkwater said: "There should be no need for food banks in a modern, caring society."

M6 Toll new boss on way



Andy Cliffe

MIDLAND Expressway, operators of the M6 Toll, have announced the appointment of a new chief executive.

Andy Cliffe joins the road operator next month from his current role as managing director of East Midlands and Bournemouth Airports, part of the Manchester Airports Group of which he is an executive committee member.

Mr Cliffe, who was born in Lichfield and brought up in Burntwood, previously held a number of roles within MAG including group marketing director, group strategy director and managing director of assets, with time spent in his 19 years at MAG across finance, operations, commercial, real estate development, strategy and corporate development functions.

Current acting chief exec-

utive Graham Parcell, said: "Andy is a great addition to the team. He has been at the forefront of developing East Midlands Airport's business, which in turn has helped the local business community there."

"He joins the M6 Toll at an exciting time with the numbers of customers growing."

Mr Parcell will revert to his non-executive director position on the group's boards.

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Arboretum's fun programme

THE National Memorial Arboretum has a packed programme of free activities for Easter Holiday visitors.

In addition to taking in the hundreds of memorials, they can partake in a range of activities and exhibitions. For a second year, families can enjoy a Little Hatchling animal encounter, with the chance to meet and hold a variety of small creatures.

Pocket Pals is a free make and take craft activity, enabling children to create their own craft animals to take home. These ac-

tivities are available from March 30 to April 2.

Young adventurers can scour the Arboretum grounds for clues to help them unscramble a secret message on an Easter trail from March 30 to April 15.

From April 3 to 15 a range of free discovery activities will be available for younger visitors to enjoy, in recognition of the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. A variety of children's make and take craft activities will be on offer.

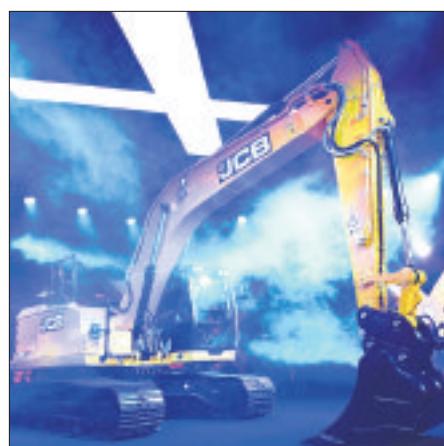
MP's pledge on mining towns' regeneration

CANNOCK Chase MP Amanda Milling has given her backing to the redevelopment of former mining towns and villages.

The Conservative MP has pledged her commitment to the regeneration of coalfield communities.

She took the time to sign a dedicated pledge book presented by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust at an event in Westminster. It reads: "I pledge my support to the work of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust in delivering against its objectives to make a lasting and positive impact on the employment, skills and health of residents in former mining towns and villages."

Wraps off JCB's X factor machine



The new X Series is unveiled at JCB's Rocester headquarters

JCB has taken the wraps off a new generation of tracked excavator following one of the biggest investment programmes in its history.

The Staffordshire company has ploughed £110 million into developing its 'X Series' which will compete in a global tracked excavator market where almost 190,000 machines are sold every year.

The new product is starting to roll off production lines at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter and is now being launched to customers around the world.

Some of the main features of the new X Series include a cab which is 15 per cent larger, making it one of the biggest on the market. The cabs are made at JCB Cab Systems in Rugeley.

JCB Group chief executive Graeme Macdonald said: "This is a massive investment and underlines just how serious JCB is in building its presence in the tracked ex-

Ms Milling said: "Cannock Chase has a very proud mining heritage but one of the key challenges is ensuring we redevelop the area so that we attract businesses which create new job opportunities for our residents."

"I have repeatedly said we also need to ensure that we attract businesses which create skilled jobs too. We need to continue to ensure Cannock Chase evolves to the changing industrial and economic landscape and is thriving community."

Perfect

"I was therefore very happy to pledge my support for the work the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is doing to boost the employment, skills and health of former mining communities, such as Cannock Chase."

Head of Operations (England) for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Andy Lock, said: "Having this platform gives us the perfect opportunity to raise the ongoing challenges still prevalent in the coalfield communities. It also allows us to share our proposals on how we can tackle these issues to make an impact both socially and economically moving forward."

Pupils' debate

STUDENTS from a Hedgesford school took part in a mock debate at County Buildings in Stafford.

The debates in the council chambers were the highlight of the day for the Year 7 Staffordshire University Academy students.

Go ape for Easter eggs

Saddle up for ride to aid wildlife trust

CHILDREN can hit the heights for an Easter egg hunt on Cannock Chase.

Aerial adventure course Go Ape has hidden chocolate treats among its obstacles and is encouraging youngsters, aged 10 and above, to find them in return for the chance to win a prize.

To make a booking, email www.goape.co.uk or call 0845 643 9236

CYCLISTS can get on their bikes for the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Sportive.

Riders will saddle up for the event, which departs from the trust's Wolseley Bridge headquarters on September 2. It will raise money for the trust's conservation work across the county. The courses have been designed by professionals at Ride Ventures with all abilities catered for and a choice of three distances – a 'Mammoth' 90-mile route, costing £25 to enter, a 'Midi' 60-mile route, at £20 and a 'Mini' 20-mile route, which has a £15 fee.

A £1 application fee is added for all routes. To enter and for more information go to www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/RideTheRoaches

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be surprised with Slimming World

MONDAY
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Methodist Church Hall
Poplar Street, Norton Canes
3.30pm & 5.30pm
Zoe Thacker: 07812 447878

Rugeley

Rugeley Rose Theatre
Taylors Lane, Rugeley
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rachael: 07807 785600

Cannock

St Mary's Club &
Community Centre
2 Hallcourt Lane (off Walsall
Road or Hunter Street),
Cannock, WS11 0HE
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Penkridge

Haling Dene Centre,
Penkridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Claire: 07540 230230

TUESDAY
Cannock

Avon Business & Leisure
Centre, Jack Holsten Suite,
07958 000554

slimmingworld.co.uk

0344 897 8000   

Avon Road, Cannock
(next to Asda)
9am & 11am

Morning Group
Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Huntington
Create Church Community
Hub, Huntington, WS12 4PD
(behind the Co-op)
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Penkridge

Peace Memorial Hall,
Pinfold Lane, Penkridge
7.30pm

Ring Claire: 07540 230320

Hednesford

St Josephs Primary School
Hilltop, Hednesford
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Ring Lindsey: 07989 962061

WEDNESDAY
Cannock

St Mary's Club & Community
Centre, 2 Hallcourt Lane
(off Walsall Road or Hunter
Street), Cannock, WS11 0HE
5.30pm
Ring Gill: 07958 000554

Hednesford

Pye Green Community Centre
Bradbury Lane, Pye Green
9.00am & 11.00am

Morning Groups

Ring Rose: 07837 088159

Chadsmoor

Bethany Baptist Church,
Cannock Road, Chadsmoor
7.30pm

Ring Lesley-Anne:
07966 456412

THURSDAY
Cannock

Avon Business &
Leisure Centre
The Chase Suite Avon Road,
Cannock (next to Asda)

5pm & 7pm

Ring Fina:
07530 165049

Hednesford

Aquarius Ballroom, Victoria
Street, Hednesford, Cannock
3.30 & 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Ring Gill:
07958 000554

07530 165049
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touching hearts, changing lives

Slimline tonic as weight loss leads to healthier outlook

Commercial feature

Slimming World members have seen amazing results since signing up for their local class.

Wilma joined a Slimming World group for health reasons. Problematic knees meant walking was difficult. She planned to lose one stone prior to her holiday in July last year but over-achieved with a one and a half stone loss in under two months.

To date she has lost four stone five and a half pounds in just over nine months, and dropped from a dress size 18-20 to 10-12, a far healthier weight for her 5' 6" frame to carry.

Wilma has found the support of her local Slimming World group invaluable and at 60 years old as she approaches retirement she is looking forward to feeling healthier than ever before.

Michelle was awarded 'Greatest Loser 2018' by her local Slimming World group. In just 18 months she has lost six and a half stone, feels so much healthier and now enjoys life to the full.

Diane is a senior member who, following the loss of her husband, and also suffering from mobility problems, found herself virtually housebound.

Realising that her problems would be helped by weight loss, Diane decided to join a local Slimming World group. She says it's the best thing she ever did.

Less than a year on she has lost 5st 7lb and regained her mobility and confidence. Now regularly walking around her neighbourhood, Diane enjoys friendships with many other members at her group.



Michelle now lives life to the full



Before and after: Wilma is now a dress size 10-12 instead of 18-20

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Work starts on £9.6m flats for over-55s



The Swallow Place development in Penkridge will comprise 65 one and two-bedroom apartments. WORK is under way on a £9.6million luxury apartment development in Penkridge for the over-55s.

The 65 one and two-bedroom apartments, called Swallow Place, will be located off Shakespeare Drive on the Lyne Hill Meadow development.

The apartments are due to be completed this autumn, thanks to landlords whg and developers Jesup Brothers.

It will have 45 car parking spaces, including electric vehicle charging points. A showhome will

be available for prospective buyers in May. Mark Tranter, whg's Director of Development, said: "We are delighted to see work under way."

"The development is in a popular location and addresses the needs of local residents. Swallow Place will provide over 55s with a simple, affordable way to buy a share in a new home while paying rent on the remaining share."

To register interest visit whgsharedownership.uk.com/

New promotions boss



THE Midland News Association has announced the appointment of Trish Penny as promotions manager.

She will take over from Viv Birch following her retirement after 40 years of service with the company.

Since 1985, Trish has worked in a number of roles for the company, publishers of The Express & Star, Chronicle series, Shropshire Star and associated weeklies, including the advertisement department on the customer services section, sales adviser within classifieds

and the legal advertising department. For the last 20 years she has been mainly based in the promotions department and has been instrumental in the delivery in a number of popular campaigns aimed at the readers and heading up Star Reader Travel.

Trish will take up her new role from April 2 and will be responsible for the successful delivery of the full range of MNA events, including the well-established Express & Star Business Awards.

Trish said "I am looking forward to continuing the high standard for our well-established campaigns and leading new exciting projects in the future."

NEWS in brief

Craft workshops for Good Friday

CHILDREN can get crafty with Good Friday workshops in Huntington tomorrow.

Organised by St Thomas's Church, they take place in the village community centre from 9.30am to 12.30pm, with additional Easter bonnet competitions, a chocolate raffle, hot cross buns and drinks.

Art on show at pool boat house

THE Sculpture and Art Foundation CIC will again open the doors to the Boat House Art Space at Lichfield's Stowe Pool from April 1 to 6.

Derbyshire artist Caroline Lowe, who studied at Lichfield College, will be showcasing her work and meeting visitors. For more details visit www.sculptureandartfoundation.com

Trader collects charity funds

A MARKET trader has donated more than £1,000 for charities by hosting a pop up stall at Cannock Market.

Anne Franks runs the stall every Tuesday and Saturday for different causes each week. Visitors can also fill a bag of books for £1, with all money given to the SANDS, supporting parents and families of stillborn babies.

Bird survey results

THE results of a bird club survey will be revealed next week. They will be announced at Birches Valley Forest Centre, Cannock Chase, at 9.30am on April 3, at a meeting of the Stafford branch of the West Midland Bird Club.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND INTERIORS

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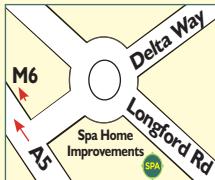
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Lawn order prevailed under National Service

BRYN Turner was frankly alarmed by the prospect of National Service after hearing stories of tasks designed to test new recruits to the limit.

"We'd heard of men having to cut grass borders with scissors and silly things like that, designed to break us - it filled us with trepidation," recalls Bryn, aged 81, of Burntwood.

"Looking back now, I would recommend two years' National Service to anyone."

The former Royal Signaller spent most of his service in the Far East and can recall in remarkable detail those far-off, action-packed days.

Training

Now, an account of his initial four-weeks basic training is on display at the Imperial War Museum in London. Bryn wrote the 5,000-word piece in response to an appeal in The Chronicle's sister paper The Express & Star, published last year for people's National Service memories.

Bryn, of Oak Lane, Boney Hay, recalls arriving at the Catterick camp in North Yorkshire on a cold, blustery afternoon in April 1956 after leaving his new job with the Coal Board to carry out the compulsory two-year Army placement for just 30 shillings a week.

For 19-year-old Bryn and his fellow recruits, including several long-haired Teddy Boy types, it was a shock to the system, with early starts, a strictly regimented schedule, high standards and no slacking.

During those first four weeks, the recruits had to be up at 6.30am for an energetic gym session before a quick breakfast and a morning of square



Bryn Turner recalls his National Service



Bryn was posted to Singapore



Bryn, of Burntwood, was 19 when he was called up for National Service bashing, including kit inspection. This was followed by weapons training and classroom work.

A pair of scissors. The conscripts' meagre wages quickly disappeared on stamps and stationery, toiletries, boot polish, replacing any broken crockery and a few pints', said Bryn.

After basic training, Bryn was taught Morse code, achieving 25 words a minute, 'which was faster than I could write', he says, before being posted to Singapore.

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22nd Solicitor Kevin signs off after 45 years

Commercial feature

Local solicitor and former partner at Gardner, Iliff & Dowding, solicitors in Cannock, Kevin Sherriff has retired after a total of 45 years with the firm.

The firm continues in the hands of Nic Dowding, who has been a partner since 1990, and Joanne Hartshorne, who joined the firm in 2006, becoming a partner in 2016.

Kevin started with the firm in 1973 as a trainee legal executive and worked his way up, first qualifying as a legal executive and then a solicitor before becoming a partner with the firm in 1984. He then became the firm's senior partner in 2005, before retiring from the partnership at the end of 2016 and becoming a consultant with the firm.

Kevin Sherriff said: "It is hard to believe that I joined Gardner, Iliff & Dowding some 45 years ago. I remember turning up for an interview, fresh faced, smartly dressed and petrified.

I was soon put at ease by John Winter who in later years became my partner and his partner at the time, Jimmy Dowding, who was the father of my most recent partner, Nic Dowding.

I have been fortunate to work with a great bunch of talented people and have enjoyed working with some really good clients, many of whom over the years have become friends. It would be quite easy to carry on but I wish to spend more quality time with my wife, Pauline, four children, Adam, Christopher, Richard and David, and currently eight grandchildren but soon to be nine in June.

We will be able to take a few more holidays, and I hope to spend more time on my hobbies including golf, walking and, of course, socialising with friends and family.

I wish the current partners, Nic Dowding and Joanne Hartshorne, and all staff well for the future and I am confident that the firm has been left both in good hands and good heart."

Nic Dowding, now the firm's senior partner, said: "It is extremely rare these days for



In good hands – Kevin Sherriff, centre, with Nic Dowding and Joanne Hartshorne

someone to have been with a firm for such a length of time, and it is remarkable to think that Kevin has only ever been with Gardner, Iliff & Dowding having started here from school and eventually becoming a partner with the firm.

Kevin was actually taken on when my father, Jim Dowding, was the firm's senior partner and I have therefore known Kevin for all of the time he has been at the firm.

The one thing that has stood out more than anything during that time is his dedication to his work and in particular to do his very best for the clients."

Clive Jessup, managing director of Jessup Build Develop, who has been a client of the firm for many years, said: "Kevin acted for Jessup in the first property matter 35 years ago and

we have continued building that relationship ever since. I have learned an awful lot from Kevin regarding the intricacies involved in legal matters concerning property and land which has been a benefit to me and the company.

Kevin has an enviable reputation within property circles and is highly respected. I am sure he will embrace his retirement with as much energy and effort as he put into his work and enjoy himself, although we shall miss him."

Andrew & Tracy Stafford said: "We have known Kevin over 30 years, starting as a client and gradually over the years becoming great friends. After 45 years of providing a trusting and loyal service with Gardner, Iliff and Dowding to all his clients, it is now time for Kevin to enjoy a long, happy and fulfilled

retirement which is well deserved for a true gentleman."

Over the years, Kevin has built and nurtured excellent relationships with local estate agents. Tim Boot, of Boot and Son, said: "Everyone at Boot and Son would like to wish Kevin a long and happy retirement and to thank him for all his generous help and advice over the years. We shall all greatly miss his words of wisdom, dry sense of humour and often invaluable advice."

Kevin has also enjoyed a good working relationship with members of staff, many of whom have been with the firm for many years.

Deb Carder, Kevin's secretary, said: "I have been with the firm for 33 years, joining in 1985. It has been a great pleasure working for Kevin.

I cannot express how much I am going to miss him and the fantastic working relationship we have had.

Not only has he been my 'boss' but a friend and someone you can turn to with respect and trust whenever needed.

He would regularly bring 'the boys' into the office and whilst they were occupied he would carry on dictating into the machine, we so often wanted to take the batteries and tapes out of to slow him down. This never happened as Kevin's dedication and conscientiousness would never allow.

I wish him a well deserved retirement to fulfil his hobbies and most important to spend family quality time with Pauline, his boys and grandchildren."



Time for relaxation – Kevin Sherriff and Barney



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Telephone: 01543 466941

Email: info@gidsolicitors.com

Have time
of life as
film shown

FILM fans can have the time of their life with a drive-in screening of Dirty Dancing.

The screening is on May 19 in Beacon Park, preceded a week earlier by the cult 1969 Michael Caine classic The Italian Job. They are the success of Grease last summer.

Gates will open at noon with the films starting at around 9.15pm.

Two more drive-in movies are planned in August, Top Gun and Pretty Woman.

Entry is by pre-booked ticket only at £25 a car per movie and £5 for on foot customers, with the option of hiring a headset for £3 and a further £15 refundable deposit.

Book at the Lichfield Garrick box office, call 01543 412121, or go online to www.lichfieldgarrick.com

Tackling stigma over talking about death

A NEW campaign is encouraging people in Staffordshire to speak openly and honestly about death and dying – in an effort to break the stigma and ensure their final wishes are known.

The campaign, 'Dying Matters, Staffordshire', has been launched by Staffordshire Health and Well-being Board.

It aims to help people drop the euphemisms about death, and instead talk openly about what they want to happen when they die.

It comes after a recent survey revealed nearly three-quarters had not discussed what their wishes would be if they did not have long to live.

For 61 per cent this was because they either felt too young, or because



Councillor Alan White

County councillor Alan White, deputy leader and cabinet member for health, care and wellbeing said: "Most people don't like talking about death, and this makes it hard to plan the end of life that we really want. This campaign is all about breaking the stigma that surrounds death, so we can have honest, healthy discussions."

Moments

"That way, we are more likely to get the care that we want, have the best possible quality of life, and might be able to spend our last moments where and how we'd like."

The website www.dyingmattersstaffs.org has advice and resources for people who want to broach the subject with their family, as well as information on aspects such as Power of Attorney, and stating preferences for future medical treatment.

Egg-citing Easter activities

YOUNGSTERS have a host of activities to keep them entertained during the half-term break in Lichfield.

Families can follow an Easter trail round Beacon Park to solve clues and claim a small prize. The trails cost £2 each, or £1.50 with a leisure activity passport, and are available from Beacon Park's Ranger Station from 9am to 4pm.

Tomorrow (Good Friday), children can take part in a Stride and Seek challenge, following a map to find the egg-shaped markers. Maps cost £1 each, available at Beacon Park's play area between 11am and 4pm.

Two pond dip days, on April 10 and 11, completes the holiday programme. The series of one-hour sessions are on Tuesday 10 April and Wednesday 11 April at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm. Cost is £2.50, or £2 with a leisure activity passport. Book on 01543 308867.

See www.lichfieldhstoricparks.co.uk/whats-on



Beacon Park's Easter bunny promotes the activities

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Recruitment team's hat-trick of awards



Andrea Constable collects her award

A RECRUITMENT business in Cannock picked up three awards at a ceremony held in London's Globe Theatre.

Berry Recruitment's onsite team at the town's Gestamp factory was presented with an 'achievement of budget' prize, marking its success in 2017.

The event was organised by Berry Recruitment Group for its staff, which numbers more than 200 across 36 branches nationwide.

The Cannock team's Naomi Higgins also picked up an award for apprentice of the year for her success since joining the business and Andrea Constable, who works on site in Cannock as well as at another Gestamp site in the West Midlands, was on site consultant for 2017.

The awards night was held in a replica of the Elizabethan playhouse on the banks of the Thames and the Cannock branch received their awards from director Spencer Berry.

Group managing director Chris Chown said: "The group as a whole enjoyed another successful year."

New deal secured to upgrade IT systems

A RUGELEY firm has landed an important contract to upgrade a vehicle company's IT systems.

DBLogic, a software development specialist, secured the deal with commercial vehicle contract hire and fleet management company Prohire.

Established in 1997, Staffordshire-based Prohire provides specialist contract hire, repair and maintenance, rental, accident management and fleet management solutions throughout the UK. It has invested in a custom software solution that delivers enhanced quoting capabilities.

Growth

DBL has been working with Prohire since 2015, ensuring its IT infrastructure has the scale and pace to meet the current and predicted growth of the business.

This latest contract has involved DBL in a software upgrade to enhance quotation and order processing, including the ability to link to credit checking facilities. It also feeds into Prohire's main IT infrastructure sys-

By Simon Penfold

tem for seamless accounting. Prohire's IT manager Jim McAlinden said: "Our ongoing investment in IT has made our business more efficient, with a corresponding positive impact on customer relations, and since the system is easy to use we spend less time training new recruits."

"DBL's developers get to grips with what we want really quickly and take into consideration customers' needs as well as our own, so we are confident all software upgrades have been thoroughly thought out."

Dave Barrett, managing director at DBL, said: "This latest upgrade streamlines the quotation and order processes."

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Youngsters to get into activities

PARKOUR, dance, boxing and trampolining are among the activities on offer to young people this Easter.

Lichfield District Council is offering young people who live in or go to school in Lichfield and Burntwood a range of 34 activities through its Getin2it programme.

The Getin2it sessions are aimed at different age ranges, starting from six to 25. They will run at a number of venues, including Burntwood Leisure Centre, Friary Grange Leisure Centre, Beacon Park, Cherry Close Skate Park in Burntwood and Minster Hall in Lichfield.

For the full Getin2it holiday programme, visit www.activelichfield.co.uk/holidayfun

Men's group line up talks

THE Men of Burntwood's next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, April 11.

It will take place at 7.45pm at St Matthews Sports and Social Club.

Jim Wall will discuss 'The past beneath my feet'.

This will be followed on May 9 by the return of 'The Waterloo Man' Tim Budgin who will speak about the aftermath of the Battle of Waterloo.

For further information contact Vince by calling 01543 682448.

FOCUS ON BURNTWOOD

Building up support for gym to aid youngsters

A BUILDING firm has given a helping hand to a project to provide a special gym adapted for children with disabilities.

The children of Queen's Croft Community Special School in Lichfield came up with the idea for the outdoor gym. It will benefit 11-to-19-year-olds from the Cannock, Burntwood, Tamworth and surrounding areas.

By John Corser

help them to grow confidence and self-worth as they want to be fit and healthy.

"Our pupils came up with the idea for this project as they are aware of the benefits of regular exercise and they are now so very excited that their dream is becoming a reality – there is not another facility like this in the West Midlands or Staffordshire."

Mrs Hall said the success of the project would be monitored and it would be open to other members of the community with disabilities at weekends and evenings.

Danielle Goffe-Wood of Cameron Homes said: "We look forward to visiting the new facility when it is completed later this year and seeing for ourselves the difference it makes."



Some of the Queen's Croft pupils who will benefit from the specially adapted gym

Business park gym scheme unveiled

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

Unit 29B, Burntwood Business Park Zone 3, Ring Road, Burntwood – change of use of gym (D2 assembly and leisure) and associated facilities.

11 Chorley Road, Burntwood – change of use of land for installation of six off-road car parking spaces.

45 Fair Lady Drive, Burntwood – first-floor extension to side to form walk-in wardrobe and en suite, single-storey extension to rear and extend kitchen, including demolition of existing conservatory.

33B High Street, Chase Terrace – two-storey extension to side to form children's playroom at ground-floor level and form one bedroom, dressing area and en suite at first-floor level.

Land rear of 2 Huntsman's Gate, Burntwood – crown lift oak tree by 3m.

32 Eastgate Street, Burntwood – two-storey side extension to form kitchen, dining room, utility, WC and bedroom with en suite and chimney to rear.

City Arcade, Bore Street, Lichfield – change of use for units 9 and 10 from A3 (restaurants and cafés) to B1a (office).

Comments must be received by April 16.



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Research offers tips on managing tumours

Cheers to Pub of Year title



Linford Arms staff with their Pub of the Year certificate

BEER lovers are toasting The Linford Arms as its Camra branch Pub of the Year for Cannock Chase.

The JD Wetherspoon pub, in High Green, Cannock, came out on top for the first time ahead of micro-pubs the Rusty Barrell in Rugeley and the Newhall Arms, also in High Green, Cannock.

The annual award is determined by Camra members with scoring

RESEARCH by University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust will help non-specialists to manage unsuspecting tumours.

The findings of the UHNM research was published in the British Medical Journal.

Incidental adrenal tumours are unsuspected tumours in one or both adrenal glands – which produce a variety of hormones and sit just above the kidney – and are usually found by chance during an imaging test for another condition.

These masses are being detected more frequently in an ageing population through increased use of higher resolution CT and MRI scans. As the findings are unexpected, detection can be very distressing for patients, particularly while awaiting further tests or appointments.

Experiences

UHNM researchers, linked to both Keele and Staffordshire Universities, worked with colleagues at the University Hospital of South Manchester to look at previous studies, collate recommendations from international guidelines and include a focus group discussion with patients to highlight their experiences. This allowed them to advise non-specialists on how to best manage the finding of an incidental adrenal tumour and how to then interact with the patient.

Funded by the Health Foundation, the team have been developing a new electronic management system – eAIMS – to streamline the process so delay for patients is minimised, reducing anxiety and improving efficiency in use of healthcare resources.

Professor Fahmy Hanna, Professor of Diabetes and Metabolism at UHNM and Staffordshire University, and lead author, said: "Writing this paper helped us to highlight the challenges faced by all clinicians when dealing with adrenal lesions discovered accidentally."

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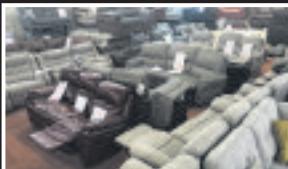
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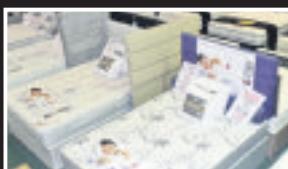
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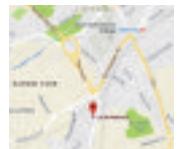
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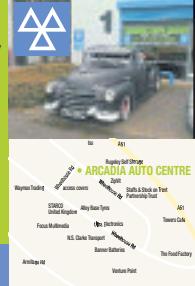
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Dent / Scratch Repairs - Have you got light scratches on your vehicle? Why not refresh the paintwork with our machine mopping and polish to give it that showroom finish. We can sometimes repair minor dents using a paintless dent removal system which can be both quicker and cheaper. We complete private and insurance work including non fault accidents. We offer free no obligation quotations and a courtesy car subject to insurance requirements. We can offer a free local collection and delivery service for all your car body repairs in the Cannock area or deliver outside of this area for an administration fee to cover fuel costs.

Resprays / Paintwork - We welcome any original ideas or colour schemes you may have and we

will do our best to accommodate them. Using our computer generated colour matching scheme we can match any colour. This means a perfect result every time. We can colour code bumpers spoilers and bodykits. We offer a painting and fitting service or just painting. For the enthusiast we offer full resprays on your custom car projects.

FREDDY'S FAST FIT

Freddy's is an MOT and car repair garage, based on Hawks Green Business Park in Cannock. We have now been open for over 15 years and in that time we have built up a very good reputation in the local area, with a lot of repeat and word of mouth customers, due to our trustworthy, friendly and reliable service.

We offer outstanding value for money, and no job is too big or small! We charge £30 for an MOT, which includes a free re-test if need be. We also provide courtesy cars free of charge, and we can collect and deliver your cars from any location within 15 miles of Cannock.

We provide a range of other services including services, cosmetic car repairs, bump & dent removal, headlights and tail lights and wing mirrors replaced, tyre replacement, batteries and exhausts repaired and replaced, car and engine diagnostics, minor body repairs and much more! All our parts come with a manufacturer's warranty and at an affordable price!

We are also one of the only garages in the area that specialises in motorhome servicing and repairs, with extensive knowledge and expertise in this field. Please call in to book your vehicle in, or pop in to see us and we'll be happy to help!



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For a truly unique and individual lounge setting we welcome you to our factory showroom to see what we can create for you.

Contact Simon Edwards or Chris Edwards on 01543 505539
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Web: www.ralvernupholstery.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT

Hawks Green Business Park

RALVERN UPHOLSTERY

Ralvern Ltd has long been providing our customers with an exceptional service, ever since the business was first established by Ralf Collis in 1946. Now his Grandsons, identical twins Simon and Chris Edwards, run the well established family business and the same commitment to excellent customer service is still in place.



Manufacturing all manner of sofas, settees, chairs, chaise lounge and occasional chairs from their base in Cannock, the company can create any type of design, from ultra modern, to classically traditional. Their highly skilled craftsmen can create any look our customers want for their home, we offer a really welcoming approach and enjoy exceeding customer's expectations. There are no salesmen at Ralvern and customers deal direct with Simon or Chris. We have a very personal approach to customer relations and want to take care of customers ourselves, that's why we cut out the salesmen, so that we can offer a unique, personal and relaxed approach.

In-house frae making enables clients to design their lounge from concept, because all the frames from Ralvern are made from scratch. We use only the best materials and we have the freedom to create sizes and designs that will suit any room taste. We include a lifetime frame, six inch coil springs and our build quality is always exceptional.

We are well known for our excellent standards, establishing an exceptional reputation over the 70 years we've been in business. Our gallery of fabric books perfectly illustrates our capacity to create almost any type of design, using our experience.

drive and passion. It's not just making bespoke designs that Ralvern takes care of though, the team also offer a complete re-upholstery service as well.

If you can't bear to part with your existing suite, we offer a superior upholstered service that goes above and beyond recovering your choice of fabric and leathers. The team can recreate the original suite to an even higher standard that it was originally built. As a standard we strip your lounge sofas back to the frame and can start from scratch, using superior foams, fillings, springs and cushions. The sofa is then finished by our highly experienced craftsmen to achieve a really unique lounge setting.

Ralvern will collect your existing suite from home, offer you a replacement whilst work is carried out and deliver the finished suite once completed. Customers are welcome to come in and see us at work, carrying out the manufacturing and re-upholstered process in our factory showroom. Whatever you've got in mind for your home contact Ralvern Ltd today to discuss your ideas. Visit www.ralvernupholstery.co.uk to view completed projects or to look for inspiration for your own dream design.

GOLIATH HOME WORLD

Your home is the biggest investment you are likely to make in your lifetime. Choosing how best to make the most of your investment is not always easy, you are bombarded with great new ways to make your house a home. Everywhere you look there is another home improvements business opening, so how do you choose which companies to entrust your home and money?

When someone decides to make home improvements in their home they want as many assurances as possible that the ultimate decision is the right one. There are many considerations to make before this point, and luckily the decision has been made much easier by a well respected and traditional, established company which will assist your decision from the start.

Goliath Home World Ltd, based on Hawks Green Business Park, Cannock, will soon be coming up to 30 years of trading, and in that time the company has refused to stand still and let the

grass grow under its feet. First came the windows



and doors, closely followed by Conservatories, Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Synthetic Grass and Solid Roofs with a further two products to be launched this year.

The Goliath motto is "one stop shopping with everything under one roof" and we mean it! The large showroom demonstrated our long term commitment to serving our customers with the quality associated with the Goliath brand.

We also offer more than just "have a look and buy" service, we pride ourselves of being able to provide customers with unique, innovative designs for your home with quality products they can afford. All our sales staff are design trained to provide each customer with a complete bespoke service if needed. The design, consultations fitting and building work is completed by Goliath Home World staff, so you can rest assured the full process is carried out with the Goliath Home World standard of care and commitment, from start to finish.

"The Goliath Home World Group is committed to providing a professional service. Our key objective is to guarantee customer satisfaction, where quality and reliability are paramount. Continued investment and commitment to quality enables us to offer you the customer, value for money service that is second to none".

JACK LIVESEY TILES

A family run business for over 36 years, Jack Livesey Tiles are renowned for a huge choice of fine quality ceramic and porcelain tiles, mosaics

and natural stone. In our showroom we have over 50 tiled settings to inspire you and take the guess work out of making your choice. We work with the finest Italian, Spanish and English tile manufacturers to bring you the very latest stunning designs for every room in your home, whatever your budget. With thousands of tiles and mosaics available we can cater for any design and colour scheme that you wish to create. We can help with free samples for you to take home and try and we can arrange for manufacturers brochures to be sent directly to your home or emailed if you'd prefer.

Our experienced staff is always here to give you technical and design advice for all aspects of your tiling project. From the smallest splash back right through to a complete wet room, we are always here to help. We can also assist in helping calculating the quantity of tiles for your room. Simply measure the length and width of each area you wish to tile and the continuous length for any



borders and we will do the rest! We also offer a professional tile fixing service.

Many of our tiles are in stock, so if you wish you can take them away with you, we can load them to your vehicle immediately. If you require a large quantity of tiles, we can arrange delivery to any part of the UK or further if required.

Whatever your project we have at Jack Livesey are sure to be of help. With our years of experience, we are confident that we can turn our hand at any designs and aesthetics of tiles. Not only can we supply a range to suit your taste for the particular project you have in mind, we can also supply a range which suits your home.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Supporting families from all areas in the West Midlands



Now into their second year Jennifer Ashe and Son are continuing to support families from across the West Midlands.

Jennifer, John and Richard are on hand to offer advice and support at what is, for many a very traumatic time. For many funerals are a massive expense and for those who have

not planned ahead they leave their loved ones often struggling to find the money.

We were determined when we opened we would not charge the expensive rates for our professional services, with this in mind Jennifer Ashe and Sons funeral fees start at just £995 for a simple funeral.

Many people these days are choosing to pay for their funeral in advance, why not take advantage of the affordable plan packages, which allow you the opportunity to avoid the yearly rise in funeral costs by paying todays prices. The money is safely held in trust until required.

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

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Cannock Area Bereavement Help Point

Pye Green Community Centre Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 5pm - 7pm. Free

Have you been bereaved? Would you like a chance to meet informally with trained volunteers who will listen to you and offer practical advice and support? Would you like a chance to talk with others in a similar situation to yourself?

Come along to the recently opened Bereavement Help Point for the Cannock area. You'll receive a warm welcome. The venue has plenty of on-site parking and is on a bus route.

We look forward to meeting you.

For more information call 01543 433479 (voicemail)
or email southstaffordshire@cruse.org.uk

Waters Edge, specialist care to make you feel at home

Commercial feature

Waters Edge is a specialist residential care home with an established reputation for caring for elderly people including people with dementia or other progressive neurological illness.

We are situated in a tranquil rural setting near to the village of Great Wyrley and just four miles from Walsall Town Centre and all of its amenities. Waters Edge benefits from excellent transport links and is within easy access of public transport.

At Waters Edge we specialise in providing: Residential Dementia Care; Residential Care; Respite Care. Our daily goal is to positively improve the quality of life of our residents in a safe, warm and caring environment.

Sandra Potts Care Home Manager said: "Life at our care home is all about encouraging our residents to lead as normal and as active life as they wish. Visits are really important and friends and family are welcome to drop in anytime they can."

We provide a safe and secure environment for all of our residents. Each resident has a personalised care plan which reflects their own individualised care and which is designed to suit them best. Our belief is that understanding a resident's past is critical to helping their future and our care plans reflect the most significant elements of their lives including; family, pets, interests, work and leisure.

Sandra and her team understand that



All efforts are made to make everyone comfortable at Waters Edge

a loved one's move into a care home can be a difficult time.

We try to make the move as easy as we can and will be happy to spend time with you planning for the move. We will also discuss with you a number of useful and practical things you may wish to consider.

We appreciate the importance of people's emotions and treasured possessions and are happy for residents to bring along any belongings which help in their transition from home to life at Waters Edge.

The daughter of our residents (LB) commented: "Waters Edge is a very pleasant home, it is like a home from home. Management and staff are

friendly, caring and nothing is too much trouble. Everywhere in the home is nice and clean. The entertainment is very good, and my dad likes to go and join in with the singing".

At Waters Edge we recognise that meal times are an important part of the day and it's an important element of care so menu choices are carefully planned to make mealtimes special. We strive to ensure that all food served is nutritious, varied and tastes great!

Residents play a key role in the decision making process of choosing what they would like to see on the menu; in fact meals and menu planning are often a lively discussion during our monthly residents meetings.

Weston House

is a 48 bedded home providing Person Centred Care by experienced Registered Nurses and Care staff to Older adults with dementia or other mental health needs. Rooms are all single with en-suite shower room and toilet and the four lounges offer a homely environment. The catering team are able to provide for all special dietary needs. It's a purpose built home, close to Stafford town centre within its own grounds.

We offer a range of activities via our Activities Co-ordinator and have our own Music Therapist and Reflexologist.

Weston House, Weston Road, Stafford, ST16 3TF

Tel: 01785 228324

www.mha.org.uk



Methodist Homes (MHA) is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for 16,000 older people throughout Britain. We are one of the most well-established care providers in the sector and amongst the largest charities in Britain, delivering services for more than 70 years. In our latest independent survey over 90% of our residents would recommend their home.



Weight Loss Coach Stuart Degville from Heath Hayes Cannock helps frustrated people achieve their weight loss goals with his flexible approach to diet and exercise.

To find out how to join Coach Deggers Group Training Program and get the weight loss you **REALLY** want, with **GUARANTEED RESULTS**, go to coachdeggers.com

Waters Edge Care Home
Residential and
Respite Care



'Taking a Break?'

Pre-booked Respite Care

At Waters Edge Care Home we recognise how important respite care can be for both the person being cared for and the carer.

A respite break can be a valuable experience as it is a chance for residents to meet new people, enjoy a change of scenery and try out some new activities in pleasant surroundings.

We have dedicated respite rooms which can be pre-booked in advance for just a few days or for several weeks for older people and older people with dementia who:

- May need some extra support or emergency respite care
- May be coming out of hospital but not yet ready to go home
- Need care while their regular carer takes a well-earned break
- Are considering moving into a care home, but would like to try it first

Why not come and visit – you will find more than a care home.

If you would like further information, to arrange a visit or to book a respite stay please contact us on **01922 404343** or by email at info@alphacarehomes.com



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Preparing for life changing events

If you can be as organised with your personal and financial affairs as you can when life-changing events occur, then you will have peace of mind that if the worst happens, you are as prepared as you can be.

1. Marriage

If you have married since making your will, then your marriage will have revoked your will completely and you will need to re-make it. The rule on this point is that simple. If you intend to marry and want to keep the terms of your will the same, then the will can be worded to confirm this. I also encourage both spouses to make will at the same time. Ideally your wishes would mirror each other as we do not know who will die first.

2. Divorce

Have you divorced since you made your will? If so, then the terms of your will are read as though your former spouse has died before you. So, their appointment as executor will not take place – do you have substitutional executors in their place? Any provision you have made for your former spouse will not apply and so you will need to be sure their provision passes to another beneficiary.

3. Children

Your will may already have provision for children, although it is likely they will not be individually named. You may want to consider updating your will to include more bespoke provision to them to fit their personal circumstances, especially if any of your children have any special needs. You may also want to appoint guardians for your children to care for them in case you die before they are 18 years old.

4. Grandchildren

Have you been blessed with grandchildren since you made your will? Again, your will may already have provision for them, but they may not be named. You may want to include specific cash gifts or family heirlooms to them. You may want to increase the age they receive their provision, otherwise they will be entitled to the capital when they reach 18 years old.

5. Bereavement

If your spouse or partner has passed away since you made your will, you may want to change the beneficiaries included in your will. It may change the value of your estate, and gifts may need to be adjusted accordingly. Some parts of your will may not apply anymore and you may want to simplify it. If any other beneficiaries have died, you may want to review whether your will included a substitution clause or re-direct that particular gift.



To make a will or review your existing will
please contact:

Marie Tisdale
mtisdale@ansonssolicitors.com or 01543 267981

Rebecca Taylor
rtaylor@ansonssolicitors.com or 01543 267193

Tracey Lane
tlane@ansonssolicitors.com or 01543 431932

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE



The Heathers Nursing Home - A home at the heart of the community

The Heathers Nursing Home in Cannock, is making it its purpose to be at the heart of the community, and is extending a welcome break to the elderly and their carers with a £100 contribution towards a short stay, available until the end of April*.

Respite care can be beneficial for many reasons, including:

- An opportunity for individuals to recharge their batteries
- A time to undertake a trial visit to a care home you may be considering

Respite care includes:

- A full assessment to tailor care needs
- All food and refreshments
- All housekeeping and laundry
- Access to a full programme of engaging activities and events in the home

The Heathers is a modern, purpose-built care home, located just under 20 miles north west of Birmingham, in the bustling ex-mining town of Cannock, in Staffordshire. The home provides specialist dementia nursing care, and 24-hour nursing care, across two floors for up to 52 older people.

The home benefits from a number of light and spacious communal areas, where residents can meet with friends or family. There is also a secure, sensory garden, popular in the summer months, and offering residents a relaxing space, whilst at the same time containing a number of stimulating features.

Located opposite the wide green space of Gorsemoor Road Park, the Heathers has strong links with the local community, including local schools and Churches. Residents

have access to a diverse programme of events and activities led by an Activity Coordinator, including animal therapy sessions, external trips, interactive musical sessions, and celebrations of cultural holidays.

The home plans to take part in National Care Home Open Day 2018 on Saturday 21st April, an initiative designed to connect people in the community with their local care home. The theme this year is 'Linking Communities', and residents and staff plan to open the doors to the public, offering them a chance to see a day in the life of a care home, and enjoy refreshments.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with the events planned: www.facebook.com/OrchardCareHome
*T&Cs Apply



The Heathers Nursing Home

Beds available for long or short term stays

Your local care home in the heart of your community

Come in for a chat, see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, make a new friend or make someone's day.

We'd love to show you around our home and you never know, you may find something you are looking for.

For more information call

01543 270 077

or visit www.orchardcarehomes.com
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The Heathers Nursing Home

Gorsemoor Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS12 3HR

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Marie Curie Cancer Care

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Marie Curie Cancer Care is a UK charity dedicated to the care of people with terminal illnesses.

Marie Curie Nurses

We are best known for our network of 2,000 Marie Curie Nurses, who work in the homes of terminally ill patients across the UK, providing practical care and support.

During 2012-13, our nurses provided more than 1.3 million hours of nursing to 30,080 patients, along with support for their families.

Marie Curie Hospices

Our nine Marie Curie Hospices across the UK provide expert care and the best quality of life for people with terminal illnesses.

We are the biggest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS, and we are expanding outpatient and day services at all our hospices. Our hospices reached 7,897 people in 2012-13.

There are Marie Curie Hospices in Belfast, Bradford, Edinburgh,

Glasgow, Hampstead (London), Liverpool, Newcastle, Penarth (near Cardiff) and Solihull.

Research

Marie Curie Cancer Care is a leader in research into the best ways of caring for people with terminal illnesses, and how care could be improved in future. We have our own research teams, and we fund external research programmes.

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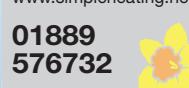


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Witch way next for adventures in Oz?

Wicked, a spectacular West End and Broadway musical that tells the incredible untold story of the Witches of Oz returns to Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday.

Running until April 29, it features Amy Ross as Elphaba, Helen Woolf as Glinda, Aaron Sidwell (best known as 'Steven Beale' in EastEnders) as Fiyero, Steven Pinder (best known as 'Max Farnham' in Brookside) as The Wizard & Doctor Diamond, Kim Ismay as Madame Morrible, Emily Shaw as Nessa Rose and Iddon Jones as Boq. Nikki Bentley is Standby for Elphaba.

Amy is thrilled to take the lead and says playing Elphaba is a dream come true.

"Well, we found out five or six months before starting rehearsals that we had the roles, so that was really a lovely amount of time to start singing the songs. Also just to build up a stamina, because once you're up and running you're doing eight shows a week. If you've already sung them into your voice and into the muscle, it makes it a lot easier once you're up and running."

It's the most challenging role that she's ever played because it stretches her both as a singer and an actress.

"As an acting role, Elphaba's journey that she goes through from start to finish is huge. You start the show hopeful, young, happy about this new university and things might be different here. And obviously, she goes through lots of hard times from start to finish and by the end is hardened by a lot of it. She's much darker by Act Two, so it does stretch you. But that's why I love it – because it is such a great challenge."

The show also brings with it enormous pressure because of the sheer number of people who go to see the show.

"Yes, I think you want to honour the wonderful, fantastically talented women who have played the role before. You want to live up to that and do it justice. So, that does add pressure but again its something to embrace and it's a great challenge. It should never be easy."

"When I was training at college in musical theatre, Wicked had just come out on Broadway and it was this new show that everyone was listening to. We were all listening to the CD so before seeing it, I was already completely in love with it."

EXCITING

"The score is just epic and so exciting. It was wonderful to go and see it when it came to the West End and go 'Ah, that's why she does that in that song and how that happens. I don't think there are many musical theatre actresses who wouldn't want to play Elphaba'.

People connect strongly with the show and Ross puts plenty of effort into each performance. She spends 30 minutes getting on her green make-up and enjoys being on the road.

"I've got a husband and a cat that I will miss, but what's nice is that we kind of bed down in each place for a month, sometimes six weeks, so that makes it less tiring. I've done tours before where you change every week."

The show is already the 15th longest running show in West End theatre history and is now in its 12th year at London's Apollo Victoria Theatre, where it continues an open-ended

Casting a spell – Helen Woolf plays Glinda and Amy Ross Elphaba, pictured below



run. Around the world, Wicked has been seen by almost 55 million people in 16 countries and won over 100 major awards, including ten theatre-goer-voted WhatsOnStage Awards (winning 'Best West End Show' on three occasions) and two Olivier Audience Awards.

Based on the acclaimed, best-selling novel by Gregory Maguire that ingeniously re-imagines the stories and characters created by L. Frank Baum in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz', Wicked tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two sorcery students.

Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. Acclaimed as 'a thrilling theatrical experience with brains, heart and courage', Wicked transports audiences to a stunningly re-imagined world of Oz, providing wonders beyond the imagination.

Wicked recounts the bond between two young women who first meet as sorcery students at Shiz University: the blonde and very popular Glinda and a misunderstood green girl named Elphaba.

Following an encounter with The Wizard, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. Glinda's unflinching

The score is just epic and so exciting

desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future.

Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

The show has music and lyrics by multi Grammy and Academy Award-winner Stephen Schwartz (Godspell, Disney's Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Enchanted and, for DreamWorks, The Prince of Egypt) and is based on the novel 'Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West' by Gregory Maguire and adapted for the stage by Winnie Holzman (My So-Called Life). Musical staging is by Tony Award-winner Wayne Cilento and the production is directed by two-time Tony Award-winner Joe Mantello.

In London, the West End production premiered on September 27, 2006, and has played almost 5,000 performances at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. The multi record-breaking original Broadway production remains 'Broadway's biggest blockbuster' (The New York Times) after 14 years and almost 6,000 performances at the Gershwin Theatre, where it premiered on October 30, 2003.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

The Vaccines



Vaccines bounce back after band came to blows

The Vaccines are back with their fourth album, Combat Sports, and a gig in Birmingham as part of their spring UK tour.

The five-piece from London promise full-throttle rock and roll on Combat Sports, released tomorrow (Friday). Heralded by new single I Can't Quit, Combat Sports is described by the band as a return to their guitar band roots after a flirtation with pop.

By the time the band had ended their campaign for third album English Graffiti they were in a mess due to lifestyle and health issues and, crucially, being in a band had stopped being fun.

Despite English Graffiti getting glowing reviews and reaching no2 in the UK chart, the band were at their lowest ebb, maybe pondering the question posed by the title of their debut in 2011, What Did You Expect from the Vaccines?

"We lost sight of who we were and why we were there," says singer and guitarist Justin Young.

The 30-year-old originally from Hampshire explains that the band has survived upheaval, including the departure of drummer Pete Robertson.

"Being in a band is about compromise and collaboration. It's coming to terms with what we are as a collective and falling back in love with that and making the best record we can for us as a band, rather than as individuals."

The core trio, also featuring lead guitarist Freddie Cowan and bassist Arni Arnason, are now joined by drummer Yoann Intonti and keyboardist Tim Lanham.

The album's title was thought of after Young and Cowan came to blows on the last day of recording. "We're like brothers and brothers fight," says Young.

"I don't see the title as a negative. On the contrary, to me it embodies survival, strength, commitment, glory, winning."

The Vaccines are in concert at the O2 Academy in Birmingham next Saturday, April 7.

Freddie is bowled over by a musical



When Freddie Flintoff retired from cricket, few people imagined that he would be performing in a musical.

It seems even he's slightly surprised to have landed a role in Kay Mellor's musical Fat Friends. He got the part after guest starring in an episode of the writer's recent TV drama series Love, Lies and Records, but admitted that he was initially a bit daunted at the

prospect of belting out a tune on stage. But the reviews have been very positive.

Freddie, pictured, will be taking to the stage alongside Atomic Kitten singer Natasha Hamilton, West End star Jodie Prenger, The X Factor winner Sam Bailey and Coronation Street's Kevin Kennedy.

The show has been written and directed by Kay Mellor, who after writing for Coronation Street and Brookside went on to create such

hit dramas as Band of Gold, Playing the Field, A Passionate Woman, The Syndicate, In The Club and, of course, Fat Friends.

The music is by Nick Lloyd Webber, son of Sir Andrew, who has created musical scores for film, TV and the stage, including the music for Love Lies and Records.

The tour arrives in Birmingham next week, at the New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Mars rocks up for arena show

Thirty Seconds To Mars are at the city centre Arena Birmingham tonight (Thursday). The Los Angeles band fronted by rocker and movie star Jared Leto, pictured, have sold more than 15 million albums worldwide and release fifth studio album, America, in April.

Sam Smith is at the Genting Arena on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Embrace are back with seventh album, Love Is A Basic Need, 20 years on from their debut, and a gig at the O2 Institute in Digbeth next Thursday.



Sweet soul music and sounds like Sabbath

How Sweet It Is for soul fans with a Motown tribute show of that title at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Saturday and then a triple bill at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Sunday featuring those native New Yorkers Odyssey, Rose Royce's Gwen Dickey and Brum's own Jaki Graham. Meanwhile, the songs of John Fogerty will be heard at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight when tribute band Creedence Clearwater Review hit the stage. Tomorrow (Friday) Legend, the Bob Marley Experience, bring classic reggae to the Mount Pleasant venue. Also at The Robin, Kick Up The 80s play Saturday and the sounds of 'Madchester' will be aired by Stone Roses tribute Adored and Oasis tribute Definitely Maybe on Sunday. Forever Sabbath pay homage to Ozzy and co at the Robin on Wednesday.



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CHOICE



Andrew Scott

Hamlet

(BBC2, 9pm)
The Almeida Theatre's 2017 acclaimed production of Shakespeare's play, recorded as-live in its West End transfer on the stage of London's Harold Pinter Theatre. Andrew Scott plays the Prince in Robert Icke's production, which features the original cast, and is directed for the screen by Rhodri Huw, also starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Angus Wright, Juliet Stevenson, Luke Thompson, Maanuv Thiara, Peter Wight, David Rintoul, Calum Finlay, Joshua Higgott, Marty Cruckshank, Madeline Appiah, Daniel Rabin, Matthew Wynn, Barry Aird, Mark Desebrook, Penelope McGhie and Nneka Okoye.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, 11.30 **Classic Mary Berry**, (R) **12.00 Football Focus**, 1.00 BBC News; Weather, 1.15 Regional Programme, 2.00 **MasterChef**, (R) 2.30 **MasterChef**, (R) 3.00 **Film**: *Shrek Forever After*, (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. 4.25 **Final Score**, 5.15 **A Question of Sport**, (R) 4.45 **Doodlebugs**. **6.00 Ready or Not**, New series. Comedy game show featuring unsuspecting members of the public who face surprising challenges while going about their daily lives. Paddy McGuinness provides the commentary. **6.30 BBC News**. **6.40 Regional Programme**. **6.45 Pointless Celebrities**. A World Champion edition of the quiz, featuring Steve Davis, Sarah Ayton, Trina Gulliver, Eric Bristow, Kriss Akabusi, John Regis, Steve Collins and Jayne Torvill. **7.35 Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.20 Casualty**. Glen and Robyn are both rushed to the ED, where he finally tells her the truth about his seizures. Beas grows concerned that Dylan's alcoholism may be affecting his judgement. **9.10 Troy: Fall of a City**. King Priam takes his life into his hands to visit the Greek camp and Achilles. An agreement is reached, but the Greeks are furious – will the true hold? Meanwhile, Xanthius' arrest puts increasing pressure on Helen, who faces a personal crisis as her relationship with Paris becomes strained. The penultimate episode of David Farr's Ancient Greek adventure, retelling the legend of the Trojan War from the perspective of a family at the heart of the conflict. Starring David Threlfall, David Gyasi, Bella Dayne and Louis Hunter. **10.10 BBC News**; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30 Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park. **12.00 Film**: *Forget Me Not*, (2011) 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Wonder of Animals, (R) 6.40 **Naomi's Nightmares of Nature**, (R) 7.10 **The Pets Factor**, 7.30 **The Deneingers**, 8.00 **Absolute Genius**; **Monster Builds**, 8.30 **Beyond Bionic**, 9.00 **Robot Wars**, 9.30 **Star Wars Freemaker Adventures**, (R) 10.00 **Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me**, (R) 11.00 **Six Puppies and Us**, (R) 12.00 **The Ladykillers**; **Pest Detectives**, (R) 1.00 **Film**: *Cromwell*, (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. 3.15 **Canterbury Cathedral**, (R) 4.15 **The Secret Helpers**, (R) 5.15 **big Cats About the House**, (R). **6.15 Easter from King's**. A selection of music and readings for Holy Week and Easter, as part of a week of celebrations held at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. The King's College Choir, directed by Stephen Cleobury, sings a variety of popular seasonal choral verses, including *Were You There?*, *Greater Love Hath No Man*, *Wash Me Throughly*, *The Angel Roll'd the Stone Away* and *Worthy Is the Lamb*. **7.30 Dad's Army**. Sergeant Wilson inherits a title following the death of an elderly relative and joins the aristocracy – much to Mainwaring's annoyance. Classic comedy first aired in 1973, starring John Le Mesurier and Arthur Lowe, (R). **8.00 Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs**. David Attenborough has a passion for birds' eggs, which protect the young from the outside world at the same time as allowing them to breathe and are strong enough to withstand the full weight of an incubating parent and weak enough to allow a chick to break free. In this documentary, the broadcaster reveals the secrets of birds' eggs from creation to hatching, exploring how they are made, the reasons behind their shape and their intrinsic purpose. **9.00 Hamlet**. The Almeida Theatre's 2017 production of Shakespeare's play, starring Andrew Scott, and recorded as-live in its West End transfer on the stage of London's Harold Pinter Theatre. **12.15 Civilisations**, (R) 1.15 **Film**: *Therese Desqueyroux*, (2012) An outspoken woman feels stifled in an unhappy marriage in 1920s France, and is driven to consider poisoning her husband. Drama, with Audrey Tautou. **3.00 This Is BBC Two**.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty, 6.10 **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**, (R) 6.20 **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**, (R) 6.35 **Dino Dan**; **Trek's Adventures**, (R) 6.50 **Super 4**, (R) 7.00 **Signed Stories: Share a Story**, (R) 7.05 **Star Wars Freemaker Adventures**, (R) 7.30 **Scrambled!**; **Scrambled!**, 7.35 **Scrambled!**; **The Tom and Jerry Show**, (R) 7.50 **Scrambled!**; **The Powerpuff Girls**, (R) 8.10 **Scrambled!**; **The Bagel and Becky Show**, (R) 8.30 **Scrambled!**; **Thunderbirds Are Go**, 9.05 **Scrambled!**; **Wishart**, (R) 9.25 **ITV News**, 9.30 **Jane Martin's Saturday Morning**, 11.25 **Who's Doing the Dishes?**, (R) 12.25 **ITV News**; Weather, 12.30 **The Harbour**, (R) 1.00 **Best Walks with a View** with Julia Bradbury, (R) 1.30 **Britain's Brightest Family**, (R) 2.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase**, (R) 3.00 **Tenable**, (R) 4.00 **Tipping Point**, (R) 5.00 **The Chase**, (R) **6.00 ITV News**; Weather. **6.15 Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.30 New You've Been Framed**. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers. **7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway**. Stephen Merchant is on duty as the Star Guest Announcer, and Stephen Mulhern hits the streets of Warrington for the latest round of *In for a Penny*. Plus, Paloma Faith takes to the stage in the End of the Show Show and the Script are in the studio for Singalong Live. There will also be plenty of surprises as more Places on the Plane are given away, and another lucky player gets the chance to Win the Ads. Presented by Declan Donnelly. **8.30 The Voice UK**. Emma Willis hosts the live semi-final of the singing contest, as the eight remaining contestants compete to win one of the four places in next week's grand finale. Only four acts can progress to the final and for the first time in the series, the decision of which acts will go through to the next round and which will be eliminated rests entirely with the votes of the viewing public. **9.00 Film: Taken 3**, (2014) Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills' efforts to finally live a quiet life are shattered by the death of his ex-wife. Just when things seemingly can't get any worse, he is framed for her murder and must fight to clear his name. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker and Maggie Grace. **11.10 Film: AVP: Alien vs Predator**. (2004) Scientists are caught up in a battle between two races of deadly extraterrestrial creatures in a mysterious pyramid. Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan. **1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA**, (R) 1.45 **Hollyoaks**, (R) 3.55 **The Question Jury**, (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Marathon: Maraton del Meridiano, 6.40 **Triathlon: Challenge Wanaka**, 7.05 **The King of Queens**, (R) 7.30 **The King of Queens**, (R) 7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond**, (R) 8.20 **Everybody Loves Raymond**, (R) 8.50 **Frasier**, (R) 9.20 **Fraser**, (R) 9.55 **Frasier**, (R) 10.25 **The Big Bang Theory**, (R) 10.55 **The Big Bang Theory**, (R) 11.50 **The Simpsons**, (R) 12.20 **The Simpsons**, (R) 1.20 **The Simpsons**, (R) 1.25 **Come Dine with Me**, (R) 2.20 **Coast vs Country**, (R) 3.25 **A Place in the Sun**; **Winter Sun**, (R) 4.25 **A Place in the Sun**; **Winter Sun**, (R) 5.30 **The Secret Life of the Zoo**, (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News**. **7.00 Coastal Railways with Julie Walters**. The actress travels from Newcastle to Edinburgh by high speed train. Along the way, she stops off at the coastal town of Alnmouth, discovers where the phrase *Keep Calm and Carry On* originated, visits the world's biggest gannet colony, and goes out to sea with a lobster breeder. When she reaches her destination, she discovers the connection between the railway and the famous Balmoral Hotel, (R). **8.00 Britain at Low Tide**. In Fife, Tori Herridge explores a wreck close to the scene of one of Britain's worst railway disasters, and assesses the role it played in the rescue operation. A series of holes in rocks on the foreshore lead Tori and the archaeologists to the story of an industry that once dominated the local shoreline, and depended wholly on the power of the sea. She also examines stone carvings left in caves by one of Scotland's oldest tribes. Last in the series. **9.00 Film: Taken 3**, (2014) Ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills' efforts to finally live a quiet life are shattered by the death of his ex-wife. Just when things seemingly can't get any worse, he is framed for her murder and must fight to clear his name. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker and Maggie Grace. **10.00 Film: AVP: Alien vs Predator**. (2004) Scientists are caught up in a battle between two races of deadly extraterrestrial creatures in a mysterious pyramid. Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan. **1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA**, (R) 1.45 **Hollyoaks**, (R) 3.55 **The Question Jury**, (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!, 10.10 **Film**: *Gone with the Wind*, (1939) 2.30 **Film**: *Oklahoma!* (1955) Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Western, with Gordon MacRae. 4.00 **News Update**, 4.05 **Film**: *Oklahoma!* (1955) Concluded. 5.15 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. (R) **6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**: **Final Demand**. Documentary giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments. **7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald**. The singer returns to Naples in southern Italy, from where takes a ferry to Capri, an island famed for its rugged landscape, upmarket hotels – and shopping experience. Here, Jane wishes to fulfil an ambition she has had all her life – to follow in the footsteps of English actress, singer and comedian Gracie Fields, once the biggest star in the UK, who spent the years leading to her death in 1979 living in the region. It proves to be a poignant journey that comes to rest at Gracie's graveside. (R) **8.00 Inside Windsor Castle**. A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film. Edward VIII's abdication in 1936 meant that his brother *Ær Bertie* became King George VI, and his eldest daughter Elizabeth was now suddenly and unexpectedly heir to the throne. When the Second World War broke out, Elizabeth and her sister Margaret moved into the safe haven that was Windsor Castle, which Elizabeth loved for its history and its heritage, while for Margaret it was one big adventure playground. (R) **8.55 5 News Weekend**. **9.00 Most Shocking Sexist TV of All Time**. Through archive footage and talking heads, a look at how gender politics has played out on television from the 1960s to the present day. **10.30 20 Moments That Rocked the 80s**. Cherie Lunghi presents a countdown of memorable moments. (R) **12.05 SuperCasino**, 3.10 **Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel**, (R) 4.00 **The X-Files**, (R) 4.45 **House Doctor**, (R) **E4**

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America** **8.00 The Silk Road** **9.00 Below the Surface** **10.30 Top of the Pops**, 1985 **11.30 The Highwaymen**: Friends 'til the End **12.25 The Highwaymen** **Live**, 2.25 **Lost Kingdoms of Central America** **3.25 Top of the Pops**: 1985 **3.55 Sounds of the Seventies** – Solo **4.00 Close** **ITV2** **11.55 Celebrity Catchphrase** **12.55 You've Been Framed!** **Gold** **1.55 Film**: *The Flintstones* in *Viva Rock Vegas*, (2000) **2.55 FYI** **Daily 3.00 Film**: *The Flintstones* in *Viva Rock Vegas*, (2000) **3.40 Film**: *Nanny McPhee* (2005) **4.45 FYI** **Daily 5.00 Film**: *Nanny McPhee* (2005) **5.45 Film**: *Mr Bean's Holiday* (2007) **6.45 FYI** **Daily 6.50 Film**: *Mr Bean's Holiday*, (2007) **7.30 Film**: *Skyfall* (2012) **8.35 FYI** **Daily 8.40 Film**: *Skyfall* (2012) **10.15 Celebrity Juice**: Easter Special **11.05 Family Guy** **12.05 American Dad!** **1.05 Action Team** **1.35 Release the Hounds** **2.35 totally Bonkers** **Guinness World Records** **2.45 Teleshopping** **5.45 ITV2** **Nightscreen** **ITV3** **12.20 Film**: *Carry On Cruising, (1962) **2.05 Film**: *Carry On Up the Khyber, (1968) **3.55 Carry On Forever**, 7.00 **Midsomer Murders** **11.00 Vera** **1.00 Vera** **Carry On Forever 2.00** **ITV3** **Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping** **ITV4** **12.25 The Big Fish** **Off 1.30** **ITV Racing** **Live** from Musselburgh, **4.00 Film**: *Dunkirk* (1958) **5.10 FYI** **Daily 5.15 Film**: *Dunkirk* (1958) **6.45 Film**: *Aces High* (1976) **7.45 FYI** **Daily 7.50 Film**: *Aces High* (1976) **9.00 Film**: *Lethal Weapon* (1987) **10.05 FYI** **Daily 10.10 Film**: *Lethal Weapon* (1987) **11.10 Film**: *Fire Down Below* (1997) **12.10 FYI** **Daily 12.20 Film**: *Fire Down Below* (1997) **1.20 River Monsters** **2.20** **The Protectors** **1.00 Young Sheldon** **1.30 The Big Bang Theory** **4.00 The Great Celebrity Bake Off** for Stand Up to Cancer **5.15 Extreme Cake Makers** **6.00 The Big Bang Theory** **9.00 Film**: *The Watch* (2012) **11.00 Gogglebox** **12.00 Naked Attraction** **1.05 Five Star Hotel** **4.00 How I Met Your Mother** **4.45 Rude(ish) Tube** **Film4** **11.00 The Indian in the Cupboard** (1995) **1.00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie** (2004) **2.45 Robots** (2005) **4.30 The Princess Diaries** (2001) **6.45 Back to the Future** (1985) **9.00 Conan the Barbarian** (2011) **11.10 Veteran** (2015) **1.40 Ninja III: The Domination** (1984) **3.45 Close****

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FILM CHOICES**MONDAY****Z for Zachariah, BBC2, 10.30pm**

A woman lives alone on a farm that belonged to her family in the aftermath of a nuclear apocalypse, believing herself to be the last survivor of the human race. Her simple life is disrupted by the appearance of a second survivor, and they adapt to working together - but the arrival of a third individual threatens everything they have built. Sci-fi drama based on Robert C O'Brien's novel, starring Margot Robbie, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Chris Pine. (2015)

TUESDAY**Sabotage, Channel 5, 10pm**

The members of an elite Drug Enforcement Administration team secretly keep the millions of dollars they find during the raid. When they are killed off one by one, the leader becomes convinced one of his men is getting rid of the others to keep all the money, and sets out to expose the murderer. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (2014)



Hellboy II: The Golden Army, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

WEDNESDAY**First Class Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

After being left at the altar, a woman has a brief affair with a handsome stranger on a plane, which ultimately puts her and everyone else on the flight in danger. Thriller, starring Lacey Chabert. (2013)

THURSDAY**3 Days to Kill, Channel 5, 11.05pm**

A CIA agent learns he is dying, and decides to quit the agency so he can spend his last few months trying to rebuild his relationship with his estranged daughter. He is tempted to go back on his word when an old colleague offers him an experimental drug that could save his life - if he agrees to carry out one last mission. Action thriller, starring Kevin Costner. (2014)

FRIDAY**Hellboy II: The Golden Army, ITV, 10.45pm**

The demon superhero, aided by a team from the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defence, leads the fight against renegade elf Prince Nuada who is intent on reawakening an unstoppable robot army and bringing about the demise of mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman. (2008)

A group of famous faces live the dream in Nevada

Have you heard the one about the British showbiz legends trying to make it in Las Vegas?

This new five-part series follows famous faces from comedy, music and variety from the 1960s, 70s and 80s as they head to the Entertainment Capital of the World with a chance to fulfil the dream they thought had long gone.

The eight stars are double act Cannon & Ball, entertainer Bernie Clifton, comedian Mick Miller, pianist and entertainer Bobby Crush, singer Kenny Lynch, 60s pop idol Jess Conrad, actress and singer Anita Harris and Hi-de-Hi! actress Su Pollard.

Cameras follow the group from their departure from the UK to the moment they step onto the stage in Sin City. They'll live in a house together, explore and enjoy the Vegas Strip and rehearse and reminisce together.

Viewers will also be given an insight into the legends' vast and varied careers as they look back and talk about their incredible lives.

The culmination will be an hour-long special of their variety performance at a world-famous theatre in the Nevada desert. Despite decades of experience in the industry, Vegas is an eye-opener.

"I suppose the equivalent in England is Blackpool - that is the Vegas of England, but there's nothing like Vegas," Jess explains.

"We played in a beautiful theatre called the Orleans theatre. And to get there you had to go through a mile of slot machines and Kenny Lynch and I were sitting at one of the machines. Then a lady of a certain age came over and said, 'You're in my seat'.

"I said, 'I'm in your seat?' She said 'Yes, I've been sitting on that seat for 50 years'.

"And then I realised, of course, that she probably comes every day and the place was full of women of about 50 gambling on these slot machines."

Another aspect that the celebs found bizarre was being part of a reality show.

"It's a new art form, I suppose," Jess says.

"We're wired up all day, from eight in the morning to ten at night and they say, 'Be careful what you say', but if you don't say anything you don't get any viewing time."

"We were a great group and nobody fell out. It was a real happy family."

The man tasked with taking the veteran stars under his wing is legendary producer Frank Marino.

"He's the most fabulous man," Su says. "He's Mr Showbiz. He just came straight in there, looking marvellous, he had a fantastic jacket on, sparkly, and his hair is gorgeous. He's very handsome, I'd have him in my house anytime."

There was another unexpected development for the stars while they were in Vegas - the mass shooting at Mandalay Bay.

"It was really horrendous," Jess admits. "Because everyone was so devastated, we all kind of decided that the show must go on."

MONDAY**Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid, BBC1, 9pm**

Lenny Henry was born in Dudley in the West Midlands, but prefers to describe himself as a Commonwealth kid, the son of Jamaican parents who came to the UK as part of the post-Windrush generation in 1957. As a result, he's perhaps perfectly placed to present this documentary, in which he explores the deep-rooted relationship between the crown, the Commonwealth and its 2.3 billion people. He begins by touring the Caribbean, stopping off in the Bahamas and Jamaica, where he hears what being a part of this league of nations means to ordinary people, from street vendors to teachers and students. Henry also examines the wider relationship between all of the people of the Commonwealth, and what binds them together.

TUESDAY**The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer, Channel 4, 8pm**

Comedians Alan Carr and Aisling Bea, Paralympian Kadeena Cox, and actress Teri Hatcher compete in the final programme of culinary challenges. Judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith set the celebrities some tough tasks, beginning with a muffin

signature, followed by a test of their pie-making abilities for the technical, and then a showstopper cake challenge that may see dreams turn to nightmares. These brave celebrities are all baring their backs to raise money for Stand Up To Cancer - and to encourage viewers to do the same.

WEDNESDAY**Commonwealth Games 2018: The Games Today, BBC2, 7pm**

Highlights of the opening ceremony at Carrara Stadium in the city of Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, as the 21st staging of the Games was officially declared open. The Games were last held in Australia at Melbourne 2006, and Gold Coast overcame Hambantota, Sri Lanka in the bidding process back in November 2011 to win the right to host this event.

At the heart of this ceremony was the traditional Parade of Nations, the Competitors' Oath and the finale of the Queen's Baton Relay.

THURSDAY**Big Cats About the House, BBC2, 8pm**

Documentary following the work

of Giles Clark at his sanctuary for big cats in Kent.

Maya the jaguar is 10 weeks old and is starting to push the family to their limits as she wreaks havoc in the house, destroying the bookshelf, getting into the fridge and ripping up the sofa. However, after an appearance on breakfast TV with Giles, she becomes a big-cat ambassador. Giles also takes in a five-month-old cheetah called Willow, who is recovering from an incident where she broke her paw, and travels to Kenya to help lions in need. Last in the series.

Not Going Out, BBC1, 9pm

Lee Mack and Sally Bretton star in the domestic comedy which sees the couple appear to go from one disaster to the next, while coping with their three kids, Lucy's disapproving parents, Lee's feckless dad Frank and their world-weary friends Toby and Anna. This week the couple become addicted to a TV boxset, causing them to cancel dinner

PICK OF THE WEEK



Last Laugh in Vegas, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

with Toby and Anna at the last moment. But when they lie about the reason, it only succeeds in opening up a huge can of worms.

FRIDAY**Sounds Like Friday Night, BBC1, 7.30pm**

New series. Greg James and Dotty for live music and interviews, direct from Television Centre in west London's White City. Synth-pop group Years and Years and rock band Snow Patrol both perform their new singles for the first time on live television, while American pop superstar Meghan Trainor also graces the show. Dotty will be heading head out and about, interviewing major stars wherever they are in the world - over the course of the series, she'll be chatting to the likes of Little Mix and Gary Barlow.

I Don't Like Mondays, Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Comedy game show, hosted by Alan Carr, in which everyone in the audience arrives with their resignation letter in hand and, with the help of a celebrity guest, Alan whittles participants down to the lucky chosen one via hilarious games, surprise guests, a celebrity executive board and the novel use of a filing cabinet.

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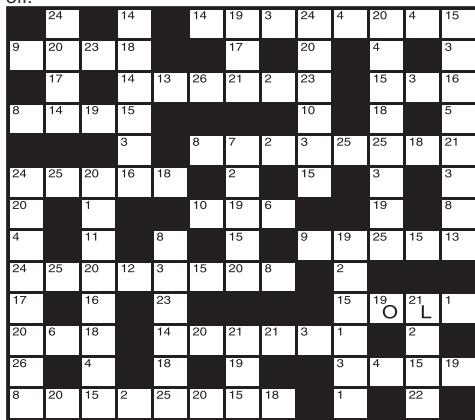


BRAIN GYM

No.473

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	M	K	Z	Y	G	U	H	F	D	T	J
14	W	E	R	S	L	N	I	P	V	B	Q

Quiz

- Which artist painted the ceiling of the Banqueting House in Whitehall?
- Which golfer was noted for wearing all-black outfits?
- Which island includes New York boroughs Queens and Brooklyn?
- Who wrote A Brief History of Time, published in 1988?
- Which present-day city was the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires?
- Which organs are affected by asbestos?
- Which author was married to Jonathan Dimbleby?
- To which country do the Stewart and Chatham Islands belong?
- Who did Steve McLaren succeed as manager of Middlesbrough football club?
- What type of animal is a capuchin?

Double Crossword

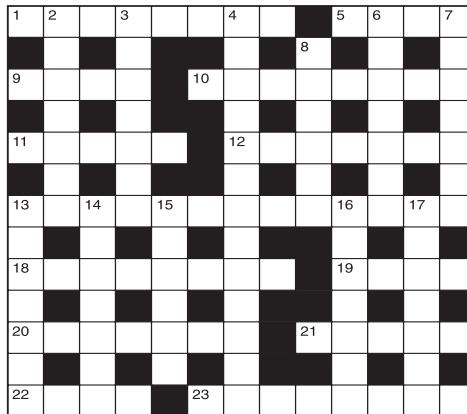
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues: Across

- Words in action? (8)
- Bring in a number to help - sharpish! (4)
- Woeful cry from a girl, we hear (4)
- False encouragement given on debts (8)
- Dog that is scientifically famous (5)
- Accident-prone tourist? (7)
- Soldier-husbands who try to supply all one's needs (7,6)
- Acquitted the sailor having found the right answer (8)
- He won't go out with his mates (4)
- Walked back around a man sleeping (7)
- Case that may be looked into (5)
- Title of pantomime? (4)
- Bearing gifts we hear, vaguely (8)
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19 O
- 20
- 21 L
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26

Down

- Its meals are usually late (7)
- Don't approve but is liked somehow (7)
- I, for one! (7,6)
- Downfall of a barber? (7)
- Wastes the rewards (7)
- A model employer (6)
- Given protection, being cautious (7)
- Rum's not what the cure's made of (7)
- Put in charge again (6)
- Make watchful remarks? (7)
- Salt and ice in flexible combination (7)
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23



Quick Clues: Across

- Dusk (8)
- Sell (4)
- Region (4)
- Encumbrance (8)
- Foolish (5)
- Function (7)
- Execution order (5,8)
- Kingdom (8)
- Bucket (4)
- Ease (7)
- Exclude (5)
- Sward (4)
- Helped (8)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
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- 22
- 23

Down

- Belligerent (7)
- Handbill (7)
- Somersaulting (4,4,5)
- Fetter (7)
- Reduce (7)
- Coming (6)
- Fault (7)
- Ring-like (7)
- Listen (6)
- Utter (7)
- Weather (7)
- 1
- 2
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- 22
- 23

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	2	9	3	8	6	5	4
5	9	4	2	6	7	3	1	8
8	3	6	1	4	5	7	2	9
7	4	1	5	9	2	8	6	3
3	6	9	4	8	1	2	7	5
2	8	5	6	7	3	9	4	1
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
9	5	7	8	1	6	4	3	2
4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bad egg; 4 Treble; 9 Fruitable task; 10 Enlist; 11 Totem; 12 Ambit; 14 Demur; 18 Heaps; 19 Sternum; 21 Philosophical; 22 Lagged; 23 Crisis. Down: 1 Buffet; 2 Double meaning; 3 Gates; 5 Rosette; 6 Blast furnaces; 7 Eskimo; 8 Cease; 13 In store; 15 Chapel; 16 Estop; 17 Smalls; 20 Ether. QUICK - Across: 1 Remote; 4 Aplob; 9 Disinterested; 10 Choler; 11 Singe; 12 Acid; 14 Adder; 18 Ropes; 19 Heather; 21 Going for a song; 22 Denote; 23 Chaste. Down: 1 Reduce; 2 Misconception; 3 Tense; 5 Pleased; 6 On tenterhooks; 7 Badger; 8 Delay; 13 In sight; 15 Frigid; 16 Throw; 17 Brogue; 20 Abash.

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Diana

Her Fashion Story

Departing Saturday 12 May

from Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Sunday admission ticket to Kensington Palace and gardens, including entrance to the 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' exhibition
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Ultimate Emmerdale

Studio, Village & Meet a Star

Departing Saturday 19 May

from Cannock

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Yorkshire
- ✓ Guided tour of the Emmerdale TV Village
- ✓ Timed admission to the Emmerdale Studio Experience
- ✓ Exclusive meet and greet with Mark Charnock at the Bradford Hotel

2 Days
By Coach only £169



Hampton Court

Flower Show

Departing Saturday 7 Jul

from Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, London area
- ✓ Admission to the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, with coach transfer

2 Days
By Coach only £149



Farnborough Air Show

Departing Saturday 21 Jul

from Cannock & Stafford

Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
- ✓ General Admission ticket to the Farnborough International Airshow
- ✓ Return coach transfer from the hotel to the Farnborough International Airshow

2 Days
By Coach only £149

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Barn conversion is immaculate and contemporary

Set in a superb location and having open views over fields to the rear, this stunning semi-detached barn conversion in Wolverhampton Road, Shareshill, is for sale through Paul Carr estate agents at £345,000.

New to the property market, this residence would make an ideal family home and an early viewing is highly recommended. This home has immaculate, contemporary interiors.

Having central heating and double glazing, the accommodation includes a welcoming entrance hall with a guest WC off, a spacious lounge/dining room with a log burner, a superb kitchen/family room with a range of wall and base units with granite work-surfaces over, an integrated dishwasher, log burner and a useful laundry room. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a well equipped bathroom.

Outside there is a low maintenance garden to the front with a paved seating area, off road parking and a garage in a separate block.

In more detail there is ample off road parking space to the front, thanks to a full width driveway, flanked by the stone slabb'd patio seating area and a small lawn and shrub borders.

The lounge is spacious, having the log burner on a high gloss plinth. The dining area is again spacious with neutral decor. Both areas are linked, sharing ceiling beams and ceiling spotlights.

The kitchen has white, contemporary units with chrome handles, attractive black granite working surfaces, neutral decor and a ceiling beam.

The family room area is again very attractive, featuring the same flooring.

Upstairs, the family bathroom is again an impressive space, featuring a contemporary three-piece suite in white, with fitted furniture to the wash hand basin and high gloss floor tiling, modern tiling to the walls and another feature beam. It also has a separate contemporary shower cubicle.

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Paul Carr Estate Agents

TEL: 01922 701001

EMAIL: greatwyrley@paulcarrestateagents.co.uk



KEY FEATURES

Stunning barn conversion

Semi-detached

3 bedrooms

Lounge/dining room with log burner

Superb kitchen/family room



He's sold

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PROPERTY

Four-bedroomed detached house with enclosed rear garden and off-road parking lies in a popular area



This four-bedroomed detached house in Watermint Close, Wimblebury, lies in a popular area.

WIMBLEBURY £250,000

It is for sale through Chase Independent at £250,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a guest WC, a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a re-fitted kitchen and a utility, four bedrooms, one en-suite, a family bathroom, a rear garden and ample off-road parking.

The lounge has laminate flooring, and a feature wooden fireplace housing a gas fire.

The dining room has laminate flooring, as does the conservatory.

The re-fitted kitchen has plumbing in place for a washing machine and a dishwasher, space for a fridge-

freezer and it also has laminate flooring.

Outside, to the front of the property is block paved providing ample off-road parking. There is gated side access to the rear of the property. There is an enclosed rear garden with lawn, flower and shrub display borders, decked patio with pergola and garden shed.

To book that all important viewing contact Chase Independent on 01543 504234.



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**HEATH HAYES
STAFFORD STREET**

NEW

SOLD similar required

- A much improved three bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazed
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Off road parking
- Awaiting EPC rating

£159,950

**HEDNESFORD
LITTLEWORTH ROAD**

NEW

- A traditional two bedroom house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, sitting room
- Kitchen
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garden and garage
- Awaiting EPC rating

£104,950

**HEATH HAYES
STRAUSS DRIVE**

NEW

- A spacious four bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen, dining room
- Utility, guest cloakroom
- Master with ensuite
- Shower room
- Garden to rear, driveway
- EPC rating C

£220,000 offers in excess of

**CANNOCK
REDHILL ROAD**

- One Bedroom
- Central heating
- Driveway, gated access
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating
- NO CHAIN

£124,995

**CANNOCK
ST AIDANS ROAD**

- A two bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to front
- Corner plot
- Enclosed rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£124,950

**HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD**

- A traditional detached property
- Entrance hallway/study area
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen/diner
- Utility, Guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear off road parking
- EPC rating E

£260,000

**HEDNESFORD
CHAFFINCH CLOSE**

- A two bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted shower room
- Conservatory, carport
- Garden to rear and side
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£169,950

**CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD**

- Two bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Off road parking, garagae
- Town centre location
- Rear Garden
- EPC rating E

£135,000

**CHESLYN HAY
STATION STREET**

- A traditional two bedroom property
- Lounge, dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted first floor bathroom
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Garden to rear
- Viewing recommended
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC rating G

£129,950

**CANNOCK
BERWICK DRIVE**

- A three bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating
- Lounge/diner
- Conservatory, kitchen
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Good sized rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£129,950

**CANNOCK
MANOR AVENUE**

- Spacious three bedroom detached
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room, cloakroom
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating

£242,000

**CANNOCK
RUMER HILL ROAD**

- A spacious 3 bedroom detached
- Split level lounge/diner, Kitchen/diner
- Guest cloakroom, utility
- Garden to rear, garage, driveway
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£230,000 Offers Over

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NEW

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this unique detached property which benefits from far reaching views and backs onto Etching Hill. The property itself is exceptionally deceptive and offers spacious reception rooms, four bedrooms and modern bathrooms. The plot is unusually large with gardens to front, rear and side and direct access to Etching Hill to the rear. Viewing essential

£349,950

Gorse Road, Brereton

NEW

£119,995



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious three bedroom semi detached having the benefit of No Upward Chain. The property has gas central heating and single glazing with kitchen/diner, lounge, three bedrooms and bathroom. Front and rear gardens with driveway providing off road parking, viewing essential

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SOLD

£169,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented three bedroom semi detached family home, with NO UPWARD CHAIN and open aspect to front. Having Entrance Hallway, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Dining Room. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway for off road parking and Gardens to front and

Peakes Road, Etching Hill

£399,950

NEW



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this traditional 1930s detached home which sits on a mature plot of over half an acre (approx). The house itself has gas central heating and double glazing with five bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, two bathrooms and double garage. The property offers huge potential within a highly desirable

Middle Croft, Hawksway

£259,950

EXECUTIVE



● JR Properties are pleased to market this modern four bedroom family home, situated on the popular Hawksway Estate. Having Entrance Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge and Good sized Family Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Master Bedroom with En Suite, Three further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Garage

Lion Street, Rugeley

£269,950

NEW PRICE



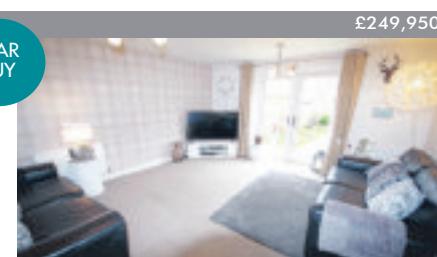
● "White Lion Inn" JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this detached family home dating from 1800 in town centre location. Having Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Study and Utility Room. Landing to Master Bedroom with En Suite, Four further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Good sized garden and parking



STAR BUY

£249,950

● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this superbly presented detached three storey property in a popular location and built by Walton Homes. Internally the interesting layout includes four good size bedrooms, main bathroom and two en suites, refitted kitchen, lounge and garage with well presented frontage and rear garden, viewing highly recommended



Hednesford Road, Rugeley

£249,950

MUST BE
VIEWED



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this very well presented traditional semi detached family home. Arranged over three floors the property includes, reception porch, impressive dining kitchen, lounge, three good sized bedrooms, luxury bathroom and conservatory to the rear. The large rear garden and extensive frontage also add appeal to the property and viewing is highly recommended

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Old Eaton Road, Rugeley



NEW

£244,950 Guide Price

- JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious five bedroom semi detached in a popular residential area of Rugeley. The extended property has to be viewed to appreciate and features gas central heating, double glazing, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, five bedrooms, bathroom, garage and plentiful parking to front..viewing essential

Upton Place, Rugeley



MUST
BE
VIEWED

£149,950

- JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached family home being located in a popular area. Accommodation having Hallway, Lounge and Breakfast Kitchen. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear with Driveway.

Dyke Road, Armitage



VILLAGE
LOCATION

£168,950

- JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached home, in the sought after village of Armitage. Having Entrance Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Conservatory. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway for parking and Gardens to front and rear.

Deacons Way, Rugeley



EXECUTIVE

£315,000

- JR Properties are pleased to market this five bedroom executive property, being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Entrance Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Dining Room, Lounge, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen and Utility. Landing to Master Bedroom with En Suite, Four further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway for several vehicles to Garage and Garden to rear with open aspect to fields

Bower Lane, Etching Hill



NEW

£399,950

- JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom detached dormer bungalow. The property sits on an extensive garden plot with open views across countryside to the front and parking for numerous vehicles with its long sweeping driveway. Internally the property boasts hallway, three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, study, laundry room, refitted shower room, huge loft space ripe for conversion

Huntsmans Walk, Etching Hill



£175,000 Guide Price

- JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented link detached home in a popular location. Offered with No Upward Chain comprising of hallway, three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, bathroom and garage. The property is currently Leasehold however the current owners are in the process of purchasing the Freehold therefore the property will be

We're Selling...
Are You...?

CALL US FOR
FREE
VALUATION

Davey Place, Rugeley



SOLD

£114,950

- JR Properties are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached home, situated in a quiet cul de sac and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Guest W.C and Lean To. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Shower Room. Gardens to front and rear.

Lower Fufin, Hawksway



NEW

£195,000

- JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this superbly presented three bedroom end terrace situated on the popular Hawksway development. The property has an open aspect to the front and features include, hallway, guest wc, kitchen/diner, lounge, three bedrooms, en suite and bathroom, gardens to front and side with two allocated parking spaces

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NEW

**GREEN LANE
RUGELEY**

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN is this gas centrally heated semi-detached property located within walking distance to the town centre. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear. EPC RATING - D

£125,000

NEW

**AVONLEA GARDENS
ETCHINGILL**

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN is this two bedroomed semi-detached bungalow in popular location. Ideally positioned for local amenities. UPVC double-glazing and Gas centrally heated. Side Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway to side providing off road parking. SINGLE GARAGE to rear. EPC rating D.

£159,995

NEW

**LANEHEAD WALK
RUGELEY**

Ideal first time buyer property based in popular location benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Conservatory. First Floor Landing, three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Separate WC. Gardens to Front and Rear. EPC rating D.

£162,500

NEW

**GREENFIELDS DRIVE
RUGELEY**

Bungalow in popular location benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, and conservatory. Outside gardens to front and rear and SINGLE GARAGE. EPC rating D.

£169,950

**RECTORY GARDENS
ARMITAGE**

A well presented semi-detached property in a village location benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen and Conservatory. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to front, Single Garage, Gardens to front and rear. EPC rating E.

£179,995

Happy Easter

Offices closed from
Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 5.15pm
re-open Tuesday 3rd April 2018

NEW

**THE LINDENS
RUGELEY**

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN is this three-storey semi-detached property located in a popular cul-de-sac position. UPVC double-glazing and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Breakfast Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Lounge, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Second Floor Landing with Master Bedroom and En-suite Shower Room. INTEGRAL GARAGE with driveway and tiered

£180,000

NEW

**BUSH DRIVE
RUGELEY**

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN is this two bedroomed detached bungalow situated on a corner plot benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Inner Hallway, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Shower Room. Front Garden and Large Rear Garden and SINGLE GARAGE. EPC rating B.

£185,000

**NO
CHAIN**

SHERINGHAM DRIVE, ETCHINGHILL

A well presented three bedroomed detached property benefitting from NO UPWARD CHAIN. Entrance Hall, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Shower Room. Driveway to front and enclosed garden to rear. EPC rating D

£185,000

NEW

**PEAK CLOSE
ARMITAGE**

A well presented three bedroomed semi-detached located in a cul-de-sac position with views over open countryside. UPVC double-glazing and electric storage heating. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms with Master having an En-Suite and Bathroom. INTEGRAL GARAGE. Parking to front with enclosed garden to rear. EPC rating D

£225,000

NEW

**BOOTHURST ROAD
HAWKSEYARD**

Located in a popular location is this Four Bedroomed Family home benefiting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner. First Floor Landing, Four BedRooms one having an Ensuite, and Bathroom. Front garden and rear Gardens and SINGLE GARAGE. EPC rating C

£229,950

NEW

LITTLE TIXALL LANE, GREAT HAYWOOD

A delightful bungalow having undergone a programme of refurbishment the property must be viewed to truly appreciate. UPVC double-glazing and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Porch, Open plan Living Kitchen, Inner Hallway, Three Double BedRooms one having an En-Suite Bathroom and Family Bathroom. Extensive parking to front. Gardens to front rear. EPC rating D

£320,000

NEW

**WESTBUTTS ROAD
ETCHINGHILL**

Viewing of this spacious individually designed detached family home is essential to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Located in the sought after location of Etchinghill with a large south-facing rear garden. Entrance Hall, Downstairs Shower Room, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility Room and Conservatory. First Floor Landing,

£399,950

**NO
CHAIN**

**CHURCH LANE
ETCHINGHILL**

Detached bungalow set in gardens of approximately a 1/3 acre offering ample parking and privacy. UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Enclosed Porch, Reception Dining Hall, Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Two BedRooms, Bathroom and separate WC. SINGLE GARAGE with ample parking. Properly established gardens to rear. EPC rating D.

£399,950

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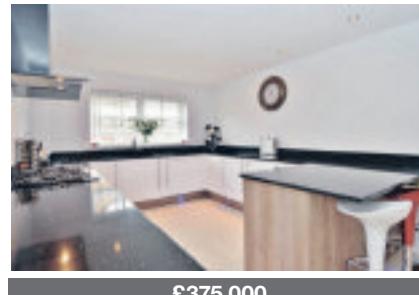
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Pheasant Way Cannock

NEW

- Five Bedrooms
- Detached House
- Three Reception Rooms
- Two En Suites
- Contemporary Kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- High Specification Finish
- EPC = C



Woodford End Chads Moor

£59,950

- One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette • Ideal Investment/First Time Buyer Opportunity
- Recently Decorated • Lounge & Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking • EPC = C

NEW

Wolverhampton Road Cannock

£104,950

- End Terraced House • Three Bedrooms
- Cellar • Loft with Window, Power & Flooring
- Rear Garden • EPC = E

NEW

Station Road Cannock

£195,000

NEW

- RENOVATED THROUGHOUT • NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Four Bedrooms & Two Bathrooms • Two Reception Rooms
- Very Large Cellar, Spacious Enclosed Rear Garden • EPC = E

Longacres Hednesford

AUCTION

£60,000

- Auction T&C's Apply • No Upward Chain
- Spacious Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment • Large Enclosed, Private Garden, Garage
- Shower Room • EPC = D

- Auction T&C's Apply • No Upward Chain
- Spacious Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment • Large Enclosed, Private Garden, Garage
- Shower Room • EPC = D

Station Street Cheslyn Hay

£250,000

- Immaculately Presented Family Home • Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms • Conservatory
- Integral Garage • EPC = D

- Immaculately Presented Family Home • Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms • Conservatory
- Integral Garage • EPC = D

Colliers Way Huntington

£250,000

- Five Bedroom Detached • Two En-Suites & Family Bathroom
- Open Plan Kitchen Diner • Rear Garden
- Garage & Driveway • EPC = C

The Beeches Rugeley

Southgate Cannock

£154,950

- Semi Detached house • Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner • Conservatory
- Rear Garden • Garage & Driveway • EPC = E

- Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended by Current Owners
- Small Courtyard & Rear Garden
- Garage
- EPC = D

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Deceptively spacious five/six bedroom detached house / Spacious five/six bedroom detached house / First floor annexe offering a further bedroom, lounge and kitchenette / Large rear garden / £350,000	Unique Grade II listed coach house / Winding driveway leading through open parkland / Allocated parking space with further space to front / Separate double garage / Communal rear courtyard / £319,500	Four bedroom detached house / Set on a good sized corner plot / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen & bathrooms / Private rear garden / £300,000	Outstanding four bedroom detached family home / Picturesque semi rural location between Cannock Chase & Hednesford Hills / Charming private rear garden with direct access to Cannock Chase / Offers in Excess of £280,000	Outstanding & immaculately presented four bedroom town house / Occupying a large corner plot / High spec finish throughout / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Two en-suites / £280,000	Immaculately presented and deceptively spacious four bedroom detached house / Set on large end plot / Generously extended on ground floor / Modern fitted high spec kitchen / £270,000

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£300,000	£6,480	£2,860	£3,630
£500,000	£10,800	£4,760	£6,050

*Standard Estate Agents Fee Staffordshire @2.16% Inc VAT. Source: Rightmove (April 2017)



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Immaculately presented three bedroom detached family home / Set on a good sized corner plot / Recently undergone refurbishment / Superb open plan lounge-diner / Offers in Excess of £200,000	Well presented three bedroom detached house / Set on quiet cul-de-sac / Planning permission to extend full length to the side with storys / Additional garage conversion / Spacious lounge & modern kitchen / £200,000	Immaculately presented three bedroom townhouse / Finished to an exceptionally high standard throughout / Set over three stories / High spec fitted kitchen / Driveway for two vehicles and a detached garage / Offers in Excess of £200,000	Extremely spacious three bedroom detached character property / Modern method of auction / Set on a large plot / Ideal for investors / Large rear garden stretching over 45 metres / Auction Guide Price £160,000	Two bedroom mid terraced house / Set back from the main road in a quiet residential area / Two allocated parking spaces / Lounge-diner / Modern finish / 2 Parking spaces / £140,000	Two bedroom semi detached house / Set back from the road at the end of a private driveway / Spacious lounge and modern fitted kitchen-diner / Driveway for two vehicles / Good sized rear garden / Offers in Excess of £130,000
Charming two bedroom terraced cottage / Spacious lounge / Large double bedroom plus a further good sized single / Private rear courtyard / Off road parking / £120,000	Well presented one bedroom semi detached bungalow / Set back from the road in a quiet location / Double bedroom / Modern fitted shower room / Private rear garden / £100,000	Well presented one bedroom first floor self contained maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Superb open plan living area / Modern fitted kitchen, newly fitted bathroom / Double bedroom / Offers in Excess of £80,000	One bedroom first floor maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers and investors / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Spacious lounge / £80,000	One bedroom maisonette / Situated on first floor / Completely renovated throughout / Enclosed rear garden / Access gate leading to front of property / Offers in the Region Of £69,950	Two bedroom ground floor apartment / Property is being sold with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £495 PCM / Exciting investment opportunity / Spacious lounge / Offers in Excess of £67,000

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- Three storey accommodation
- Kitchen / diner
- Off road parking & garage

Burntwood Office - £240,000



CHASE TERRACE, MORLEY ROAD

- Spacious dormer bungalow
- Prime residential location
- Open plan breakfast / diner
- Ample off road parking

Great Wyrley Office - £175,000



GREAT WYRLEY, NEWBURY CLOSE

- Semi-detached house
- Popular Cul-de-Sac location
- No upward chain
- Garage & driveway

Great Wyrley Office - £159,950



GREAT WYRLEY,LITTLEWOOD LANE

- Semi-Detached Bungalow
- In need of some modernisation
- Popular location
- Off Road Parking

Great Wyrley Office - £387,500



CHESLYN HAY, STATION STREET

- Detached period property
- Very spacious accommodation
- Three reception rooms
- Superb rear garden

Burntwood Office - £359,950



BURNTWOOD, WESTWOODS

- Well Presented Detached Residence
- Conservatory
- En-Suite to Master
- Early Inspection Highly Recommended

Great Wyrley Office - £350,000



SHARESHILL, MIDDLE HILL BARN

- Semi-detached barn conversion
- Immaculate interiors
- Open views over fields to rear
- Off road parking & garage

Burntwood Office - £295,000



CHASE TERRACE, DUKE ROAD

- Impressive detached bungalow
- Deceptively spacious accommodation
- Stunning countryside views

Great Wyrley Office - £225,000



CHESLYN HAY, DUNDALK LANE

- Stunning Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Refurbished Throughout
- Prime Location
- No Upward Chain

Burntwood Office - £195,000



CHASE TERRACE, NEW PLANT LANE

- Well presented semi
- Pleasant Cul-de-Sac location
- Lounge / diner. Conservatory
- Off road parking & garage

Burntwood Office - £128,000



BURNTWOOD, UDEN HOUSE

- Modern 2nd floor apartment
- Immaculate interiors
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Allocated parking space

Great Wyrley Office - £100,000



BRIDGTOWN, UNION STREET

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- Close to Cannock's amenities
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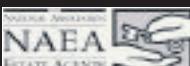
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- Viewing Recommended

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- 3 Bedrooms

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- First Floor Apartment
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- Stunning Detached
- Sought After Location
- Through Hall, WC
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory

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HEDNESFORD
LIME PIT LANE

- Kitchen
- 4 Bedrooms
- Bathroom, En-suite
- Driveway, Gardens

\$230,000

HEDNESFORD
WESTHILL AVENUE

- NO CHAIN
- POTENTIAL BUILDING PLOT (STPC)
- POTENTIAL TO EXTEND (STPC)
- Traditional Property

\$160,000

GREAT WYRLEY
ANSON ROAD

- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Cellar
- Bathroom
- 3 Bedrooms

\$100,000

"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"



Picanto X is a little chunkier than its non-X siblings in the range

X marks the spot where Kia has added extra to Picanto

By Carmel Stewart

Powered by its tried and tested 1.25 litre petrol engine, the Korean built, front-wheel-drive Picanto X city-sized car has a number of additional goodies which sets it above others in the same segment.

Perhaps most important to modern-day drivers is the connectivity package – a seven-inch touchscreen display plus satellite navigation with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay fitted as standard.

In appearance, the Picanto X is a little chunkier than its non-X siblings in the range being longer, wider and taller with increased ground clearance, black side sill mouldings and wheel-arch cladding, silver skid plates beneath the SUV style front and rear bumpers and twin exhaust outlets.

Those who travel with tape measures (and there are those who do) will note that we are talking

millimetres here – 75mm longer, 30mm wider and 15mm taller with a 35mm longer front overhang and a 40mm greater rear overhang.

In addition, all on-board have slightly raised seating positions (15mm) on grey faux leather upholstery. Boot space adds up to a comfortable 255 litres which ups to more than 1,000 litres with the rear seat back dropped flat.

The grille and fog lamp surrounds are finished with lime green highlights – a colour repeated inside with the stitching round the steering wheel, gear lever gaiter and armrests.

On the road, all is neat and tidy, compact, composed and well suited to the town centres for which it is designed and, at £12,595, it offers relatively inexpensive transport for five.

Buyers can opt for the standard fit five-speed manual transmission or pay a tad more for the four-speed auto at £13,245. Both come with a

very decent spec list and, as with all Kias, an unbeatable seven-year fully transferable warranty which is such a big plus on the sales front that it is a wonder more manufacturers don't do the same.

With 16-inch alloys, satin chrome highlights, privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate, LED daytime running lights and rear lights plus Bluetooth and DAB radio as standard you have everything you need plus a few fancy bits besides – metal pedals, flat-bottomed steering wheel, rear parking sensors, a snazzy rear-view camera and a proper grab and lift handbrake which is so reassuring on steep hills.

Safety stuff includes six-airbags, electronic stability control and emergency braking as standard.

The sparky 1.25 litre 83bhp engine won't take the chequered flag at Branks Hatch but it'll get you where you need to go without breaking the bank.

Top speed clocks up at 107mpg, 0 to 60mph has been registered at 11.6mph, average fuel consumption is officially 61.4mpg and CO₂ emissions 106g/km with manual gearing and an average 52.4mpg and 124 g/km with the auto box – all figures which will help the Picanto X make its mark.

The new Picanto won the Product Design award at the 2018 international iF Design Awards earlier this year as well as Best City Car in both the 2018 What Car? And Fleet World awards.



There's privacy glass on the rear windows

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155.70-13	£30	185.65-14	£35	195.55-15	£38	205.55-16	£38
165.70-13	£30	195.65-15	£37	195.50-15	£35	225.45-17	£40
165.70-14	£34	185.60-14	£36	195.45-15	£40	205.50-17	£44
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How great is the Hilux? Ask a farmer, builder, fencer ..

If you want to know just how reliable, hard-wearing and capable a machine the Toyota Hilux is, you can't do better than ask the people who drive them day-in, day-out. That's what makes Hilux's latest award, Professional Pick-Up and 4x4 magazine's Working Pick-Up of the Year, announced, all the more relevant and rewarding.

Unlike many other awards, these honours are determined by people who rely on their pick-ups and all-wheel drive machines every day for their business.

Judging

A more rigorous and practical judging panel would be hard to find, representing a wide range of professions and jobs including farming, fencing, plant hire, builders, road gritters, estate managers, agricultural suppliers and a professional hunter.

Hilux had to prove its mettle in a series of driving scenarios, including driving off-road and towing, in a test programme at the Carlton Towers Estate in Yorkshire.

Speaking for the team of 12 judges, Liam Campbell, Professional Pick-Up and 4x4 founder and editor, said: "The Hilux has long been regarded as the no nonsense workhorse, and this continues into the latest generation with its fantastic residual values, a



Hilux had to prove its mettle in a series of driving scenarios

3.5-tonne towing capacity and its highly regarded build quality and durability.

"However, it didn't just impress in terms of productivity and capabilities; the jury also made a note of its comfortable ride and handling on the road."

James Clark, Toyota press relations manager, said: "Hilux couldn't hope for a better commendation than to be

named the best in its class from the people whose livelihoods depend on a vehicle they can rely on to do the job, every time.

"With each new generation of Hilux we have made advances in performance, comfort and safety, but never at the cost of its fundamental abilities as a tough, robust machine that can tackle the toughest working conditions."



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2010 10 PEUGEOT 207S 1.4 3-door. Silver, Alloys, Air Con, C/Locking, E/Windows, PAS, CD player £3495

2010 59 SKODA YETI 2.0 CR TDI .Diesel 4x4, Metallic Blue, FSH, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows £6995

2010 59 FIAT 500 SPORT Diesel, Black with Black Leather, Alloys, Air Con, Spoiler etc. £20 Road Tax £4495

2009 59 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 DIESEL Only £30 Tax, Alloys, C/Locking, E/Windows, Air Con, Heated Front Screen £4995

2009 59 KIA SOUL 2 CRDI DIESEL, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows, C/Locking etc. £4995

2009 09 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi N-TEC 5 Door, Black, Alloys, Climate Control, Cruise Control, 66,000 miles, 2 Owners, Service History £7695

2007 07 MINI COOPER 1.4, yellow, 17" Black alloys, Black chequer roof, FSH, E/Windows, C/Locking etc £3995

AUTOMATIC

2007 57 SMART PASSION, Auto, Blue/Silver, Black Leather, Heated Seats, Air Con, .. Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking, Low mileage £3495

1997 R MAZDA BONGO 2.5 Diesel, 4 Berth, Camper Van, Full Camper Conversion Cooker, Sink, Fridge, E/Roof, Awning, Porta Loo etc £7995

2010 10 RENAULT TRAFIC 2.0 DCi Auto, 2 Wheelchair, 4 Seater Bus, Remote Electric Rear Doors and Lift, Electric Swivel Drivers Seat. Excellent Vehicle £9995

2007 57 RENAULT KANGOO 1.2 Gowlings wheelchair adapted vehicle, excellent for year £3895

AUTOMATICS BOUGHT FOR CASH!!

View all our cars online www.towermotors.co.uk

Pye Green Road,
Hednesford,
Cannock WS12 4LL

NEW MOT SERVICE VALET WARRANTY
ALL HP CLEAR LOW RATE FINANCE
BAD CREDIT - CCJ'S - NO PROBLEM.



Opening Times
Mon - Frid 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am - 4.30pm.
Sunday Closed



**Cars £29.95
Motorcycles £21.95
Three Wheelers £29.95**

David Ross Ltd

81/91 Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffs WS12 3HL

01543 277916 OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

Mon-Fri : 8.30 am-5.00 pm Saturday : 8.30 am-12.30 pm

O.A.P £2.00 OFF ANY DAY

Bmw & Mini Specialists Four Ashes
www.bmautomotivesolutions.co.uk

35 YEARS' BMW AND MINI EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Service
- ✓ Air-con Servicing
- ✓ Diagnostics
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ M.O.T. arranged
- ✓ Electronic Service History Updated



Established 2011

OPENING TIMES:

Mon-Thurs 8am - 5.30pm

Fri 8am - 5pm Sat 9am - 12.30pm

BM AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS LTD.



To advertise
in
our weekly
MOTORING
SECTION

Call
Jayne La Hiffe
on
**01902
31 31 31**

Golden Anniversaries

STEVENSON
John and Josie

To Mom and Dad,
congratulations on your
50th Golden Wedding Anniversary
All our love Sharon, Tony,
David and Chloe.
XXX

**Deaths****HIGGS**

Arthur Samuel

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, aged 92 years.

Arthur was much loved and will be missed dearly by all of his Family and Friends.

All are welcome to attend the Funeral Service on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at Stafford Crematorium at 3.30pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for The Royal Marines Association.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
29 Church Street,
Cannock WS11 2JW
01543 502322

NELSON
Martin
Son

Died March 14.

You are in our thoughts forever, you were taken too soon, never forgotten.

Love, Mom and Dad.

NELSON
Martin
Brother

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, in the clouds we will meet again.

Sister Isabella, Brother-in-law John.

POYNER
Trevor

Passed away March 19, 2018 aged 78 years.

Funeral Service at St. Chads Church, Chadswood on April 3 at 11.00am.

All welcome.

Will be sadly missed by Niece Helen, Ray, Laura and Rachel.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT
CUSTOMER INFORMATION
Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

1
Family

Elderly & Disabled

holidays
Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let, all overlook the sea. Half price last offer. 01984631781 www.howellbay.com

Devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
April Offers
2 nights, 2 people B&B
only £109
or 2 nights room only, £89
Room only available.
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 year old building, pier
Contracts Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

Self Catering
Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday
Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
0128 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites at Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
"Weekends just £99 per couple"
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rit@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body
& soul

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: **01902 782960**

3
Home &
Services

Antiques

BAKELITE RADIO 50's Ecko radio, perfect condition, prop or collector item, classic radio. £100 ono. 07719 299463.

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first
Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins,
Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

Furniture

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

LEATHER SUITE
Taupe. Three seater settee, 2 chairs. Cost £2,200 five years ago. Good condition. £250.
01922 403712.

Household Appliances

NEW WORLD GAS hob, almost new, stainless steel, genuine reason for sale £10. 01889 803664.

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD

Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.

Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street,
Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

SHEDS NOW
Quality Garden Buildings Made to Measure at Competitive prices
Sheds * Summerhouses * Planters * Arbours and more..
Now available **ST20 0EP**,
Stafford ST20 0EP
www.shedshow.co.uk
0800 698 0093

SLABS 45mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT.
Ranton Building Supplies:
01543 276006.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets, New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/carbon. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

✓ CASH PAID ✓ £300+ PER OUNCE FOR 9 CARAT GOLD. ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!

Lady Buyer
gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any oriental items, old brass items, any silver items, War medals military etc.

HOUSE CLEARANCES!
Call: 01922 495066
or 07971 783206 ✓

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully advise that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

ALEX BUYS-Mobility scooters/electric wheelchairs, recliner armchairs. Clean/working. 078 078 078 05.

CASH PAID NOW! WANTED TOOLS

Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield settees.
01902 454144 or 0121 5263375

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED Belle cement Mixer. Electric, 240 volt. Cash waiting. 01543 671436.

WANTED Play Station 2 Game Need for Speed Underground. Also 1950's/60's bank's notes wanted. 07717 338587.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV, cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

BILL - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds

Brought to you by Express & Star

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds

Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

All Building & Roofing Work

Driveways, Landscaping

Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed

Free Quotes: 07837 994465

01902 579 592

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles,

Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York

Stone, Caversham 01889 574066.

sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYL supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quote call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, patio, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

External Rendering /Insulation

RENDER OR INSULATION

20 year insurance backed guarantee.

Free Quotes 01902 495 699

www.ecotextcontracts.co.uk

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER

10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,

gravel boards £695

Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.

0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656

Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm

Sat 8am - 12noon

83 Portway Rd, W'bury

www.portwayfencing.co.uk

BUSHBURY FENCING AND GATES

SUPPLY AND FITTING SPECIALISTS

FREE QUOTES

01902 827000

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid

for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken.

07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds

Brought to you by Express & Star

GARDEN KINGS

All Garden work and maintenance,

Fencing, Tree Cutting,

Turfing and much more

Call: Steve for free quote

07774449900 / 01902 238653

30 years experience.

Free quotes. All work guaranteed

01543 327130 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES

Home/Garden Improvements.

Over 30 Years Experience

Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING

For the very best in plastering and rendering,

full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls,

stairs and landings from 200

30 years experience.

Free quotes. All work guaranteed

01543 327130 / 07519 694516

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.

SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.

LOC & DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.

Free Quotes - Call Ric on:

07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removals now. 07429 453209/01902 830870 / 01384 942060

Roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS

Roofing & Scaffolding

Rubber Roofing

37 years experience

FREEPHONE (0800) 220 - 729

MG ROOFING

Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs,

Fascias and Gutters.

Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1995, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

ONE BED FLAT WILLENHALL

Town Centre. New kitchen / bathroom.

£100pw. Deposit required.

No texts. 07976 781003.

THREE BED FLAT Rushall, nr

Walsall. Available now. DSS welcome. 07443 917182.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS

All readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

The ASA

regulates ads

on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Painters/ Decorators

DECORACE Painter & Decorator.
Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes: 01902 635258 07876 135302.

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR

City and guild qualified, local, reliable, affordable. 07916 3939490.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN Building Plans, Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200. 30 years experience. Free quotes. All work guaranteed 01543 327130 / 07519 694516

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

1
Family

holidays

Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let, all overlook the sea. Half price offer. 01984631781 www.howellbay.com

Elderly & Disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2
Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
BONANZA CLEARANCE SALE UP TO 20% OFF CYCLES!
ALL SPARES & ACCESSORIES AT DISCOUNT PRICE
24 hour repair service! All cycles fully guaranteed

HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley,
Wolverhampton

Car Boot Sales

BEST WEDNESDAY BOOTSale
10am Boat Lane, Muckley Corner,
Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267 041

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSale
Back at Cocksparrow Lane,
Huntington, Cannock, WS12 4PB
Sellers £5
07890 267 041

Caravans/
Motorhomes

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE
Swift Moselle, 7 years old, two bedrooms, 12ft x 32ft, sited at Challaborough Bay, South Devon.
07527 430037.
To email/pics and more info.

STATIC CARAVAN for sale, wharf caravan park Worcester, 6 berth, 8 month site £9500 including rates.
Call 07792 578832.

STERLING ECCLES MONSTONE 2009 MODEL. Immaculate. Motor mover, alarm, Alko hitch lock and wheel lock, full awning, porch awning, built in m/wave, radio, new heavy duty battery, extras, £9,000 ono. 07703 190445.

WANTED Motorhome, will pay upto £3,000 cash.
01543 375409 / 07866 407209.

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.com
expressandstar.co.uk

3
Home & Services

Antiques

BAKELITE RADIO 50's Ecko radio, perfect condition, prop or collector item, classic radio. £100 ono. 07719 299463.

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first
Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Staffs, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins,
Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

Furniture

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a **FREE** collection

LEATHER SUITE
Taupe. Three seater settee, 2 chairs. Cost £2,200 five years ago. Good condition.
£250.
01922 403712.

Household Appliances

NEW WORLD gas hob, almost new, stainless steel, genuine reason for sale £10. 01889 803664.

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD

Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.

Super Quality/Competitive Prices Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street,
Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

SHEDS NOW

Quality Garden Buildings Made to Measure at Competitive prices
Sheds * Summerhouses * Planters * Arbours and more..
Now available **ST20 0EP**,
www.shedsnow.co.uk
0800 698 0093

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACING, only £1.87 inc. VAT.
Ranton Building Supplies:
01543 276006.

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

specialists at
your service

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile & PVC/carbon. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins,
watches, costume jewellery, porcelain,
any oriental items, old brass items, any
silver items, War medals etc.

HOUSE CLEARANCES!

Call: 01922 495066

✓ **CASH PAID £300+ PER OUNCE FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.**

ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!

Lady Buyer

gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins,
watches, costume jewellery, porcelain,
any oriental items, old brass items, any
silver items, War medals etc.

HOUSE CLEARANCES!

Call: 01922 783206 ✓

DO YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully advise that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

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Public Notices

IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF COMMONS SESSION 2017-19

HIGH SPEED RAIL (WEST MIDLANDS – CREWE) BILL ADDITIONAL PROVISION (MARCH 2018)

AND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering this Bill should consider certain amendments to the Bill for the following amongst other purposes:

1. Amendments to authorise revised proposals for the construction of works and acquisition of lands:

County of Staffordshire, District of Lichfield, Parishes of Kings Bromley and Alrewas,

- Land required for the realignment of a fuel pipeline diversion (Work No. 4)

Parish of Kings Bromley,

- Land required for utility works and for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Armitage with Handsacre,

- Land required for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Mavesyn Ridware,

- Realignment of Pipe Lane (Work No. 15A)

Realignment of Uttoxeter Road and Common Lane (Work No. 15D)

- An access road between Common Lane and Pipe Lane (Work No. 15E)

Land required for utility works, worksite, access for construction and highway works

Parish of Colton,

- Land required for utility and highway works

District of Cannock Chase, Parish of Brereton and Ravenhill,

- Land required for access for construction and maintenance

Borough of Stafford, Parish of Colwich,

- Land required for utility works and for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Ingestre,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Tixall,

- Land required for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Hopton and Coton,

- Land required for utility works and for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Marston,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Stone Rural,

- Land for the realignment of an access road off the A51 (Work No. 72)

Land required for utility works and for access for construction and maintenance

Parishes of Stone Rural and Swynnerton,

- Land required for the construction of railways (Works Nos. 62 and 71)

Parish of Stone,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Swynnerton,

- A road between the A51 The Rowe and Bent Lane (Work No. 87A)

Land required for environmental mitigation, worksite, access for construction and maintenance and utility works

Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Parish of Betley,

- Land required for utility works

County of Cheshire, Borough of Cheshire East, Parish of Checkley cum Wrinehill,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Blakenhall,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Chorlton,

- Land required for utility works and for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Basford,

- Land required for environmental mitigation, highway works, worksite and for access for construction and maintenance

Parish of Weston,

- Land required for utility works

Parish of Shavington cum Gresty,

- Land required for utility works

Town of Crewe,

- Land required for access for construction and maintenance

Town of Sandbach,

- Land required for access for construction and maintenance

2. In connection with the construction of the works specified in 1 above, provision for the stopping up or diversion of the public footpaths and bridleways specified in Schedule 1 to this notice.

Plans and Sections, with a Book of Reference to those Plans, relating to the proposed Amendments are available for public inspection at the office and libraries referred to in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this Notice.

An Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments (ES) and Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) together with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) are also available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2.

Copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill are available for public inspection at each of the office and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to

this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2.

Copies of the ES, SES and NTS and copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill are available for sale from High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2.

The proposed Amendments and the Bill are available on the UK Parliament's website at www.parliament.uk. The Plans and Sections, ES, SES and NTS are available on the High Speed 2 (HS2) Limited website at www.gov.uk/hs2. Specialist technical reports relating to the ES and SES are also available at www.gov.uk/hs2.

Any person who wishes to make comments on the ES and SES should send them either by post to: FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2A March 2018 or by email to: HS2Phase2a@ipso.com, on or before 14 May 2018.

Please note: if you wish to send your response by recorded delivery or special delivery, please telephone the HS2 Ltd Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk to arrange this.

Anyone wishing to send comments should note that responses will be published on a publicly-accessible website in due course, but the names, addresses and signatures of individuals will not be published. As it is not possible for the substance of responses to be checked to ascertain whether they contain other personal data, you should not include information in your response that could identify you unless you are content for it to be made public.

If you do not want any of your response to be published you should clearly mark it as "Confidential" in the "subject" of the email or at the top of your letter. However please note the following two paragraphs.

If you want the information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that all information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to disclosure in accordance with access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). Under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with confidentiality obligations. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain in your response why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If a request for disclosure of the information you provide is received full account will be taken of your explanation, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department for Transport or High Speed (HS2) Limited.

Please note that all responses received, whether marked Confidential or not, will be passed on in full to the Houses of Parliament and their appointed Assessor, who will analyse the responses and make a report to Parliament. That report will not contain your personal data. Submitting comments to the Secretary of State does not affect the entitlement of persons to make objections to the proposed Amendments by submitting a petition to the House of Commons referred to below.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. Objection to the proposed Amendments may be made by submitting a petition against them in person at the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1P 0AA, online through the Select Committee website at <http://www.parliament.uk/HS2-Phase2a-Committee>, by post to the Private Bill Office, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1P 0AA or e-mail to prboc@parliament.uk.

In accordance with Private Business Standing Order 171B(4), the Chairman of Ways and Means has decided that any such Petition must be submitted so that it is received not later than 1pm on Friday 27 April 2018.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by submitting a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments within a period decided by the Chairman of Committees which is not less than 25 days after the Bill receives its first reading in that House.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office, House of Commons (tel: 020 7219 3250, email: prboc@parliament.uk, www.parliament.uk/bills), the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords (tel: 020 7219 3231, email: hlpprivatebills@parliament.uk, www.parliament.uk/bills), or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents (tel: 020 7593 5000, www.gov.uk/hs2).

DATED: 28 March 2018

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR.

Winckworth Sherwood LLP

Parliamentary Agents, Minerva House
5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB

Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

Parliamentary Agents, One Wood Street,
London EC2V 7WS

SCHEDULE 1

Area	Footpath or bridleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary
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County of Staffordshire

District of Lichfield

Parish of Kings Bromley

Footpath Kings Bromley 3

Temporary

Parish of Mavesyn Ridware

Footpath Mavesyn Ridware 31

Temporary

Footpath Mavesyn Ridware 38

Temporary

Borough of Stafford

Parish of Colwich

Bridleway Colwich 23 (Moreton Lane)

Temporary

Bridleway Colwich 35 (Coley Lane)

Temporary

Footpath Colwich 36

Temporary

Footpath Colwich 56

Temporary

Parish of Hopton and Coton

Footpath Hopton and Coton 0.1535

Temporary

Footpath Hopton and Coton 23

Temporary

Footpath Marston 9

Temporary

Parish of Marston

Bridleway Stone Rural 0.1135

Temporary

Parish of Stone Rural

Bridleway Swynnerton 39

Temporary

Footpath Swynnerton 17

Temporary

Footpath Swynnerton 27

Temporary

Footpath Swynnerton 38

Temporary

Footpath Swynnerton 10

Temporary

Footpath Swynnerton 58

Temporary

County of Cheshire

Borough of Cheshire East

Parish of Blakenhall

Footpath Blakenhall 13

Temporary

Area	Footpath or bridleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary
<i>Parish of Chorlton</i>	Footpath Chorlton 1	Temporary
	Footpath Chorlton 8	Temporary
	Footpath Chorlton 9	Temporary
	Footpath Chorlton 16	Temporary
<i>Parish of Basford</i>	Footpath Basford 1	Temporary
	Footpath Basford 11	Temporary
	Footpath Basford 12	Temporary
<i>Town of Sandbach</i>	Footpath Sandbach 51	Permanent

SCHEDULE 2 PART I

Officers with whom the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for inspection.

In Staffordshire –

- HS2 Project Manager, Staffordshire County Council, Wedgwood Building, Block A, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH
- Head of Economic Growth, Lichfield District Council, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6YZ
- Chief Executive, East Staffordshire Borough Council, The Maltsters, Wetmore, Burton upon Trent, DE14 1LS
- Managing Director, Cannock Chase District Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1BG
- Head of Economic Development and Planning, Stafford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, ST16 3AQ
- Head of Planning and Development, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, The Guildhall, High Street, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 1PW
- Parish Clerk, Alrewas Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QQ
- Parish Clerk, King's Bromley Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QQ
- Parish Clerk, Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council, c/o Rugeley Library, 12 Anson Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Mavesyn Ridware Parish Council, c/o Rugeley Library, 12 Anson Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Colton Parish Council, c/o Rugeley Library, 12 Anson Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council, 37 Leofric Close, Kings Bromley, Burton on Trent, DE13 7JP
- Parish Clerk, Colwich Parish Council, Parish Centre, St. Mary's Road, Little Haywood, Staffordshire, ST18 0TX
- Parish Clerk, Ingestre with Tixall Parish Council, 2 The Hanyards, Tixall, Stafford, ST18 0XY
- Parish Clerk, Hopton and Coton Parish Council, The Village Hall, Wilmore Hill Lane, ST18 0AW
- Parish Clerk, Marston Parish Meeting, Elm Cottage, Yarlet Lane, Marston, Stafford, ST18 9ST
- Parish Clerk, Stone Rural Parish Council, Council Office, Moddershall, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8TG
- Assistant Town Clerk, Business and Finance, Stone Town Council, 15 Station Road, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8JP
- Parish Clerk, Swynnerton Parish Council, c/o Stone Library, High Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AT
- Parish Clerk, Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Parish Council, c/o Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB

In Shropshire –

- Strategic Transport and Contracts Manager, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND
- In Cheshire East –**
- Business Intelligence Manager - Research and Consultation, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ
- Parish Clerk, Doddington and District Parish Council, c/o Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Hough and Chorlton Parish Council, c/o Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Weston and Basford Parish Council, c/o Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB
- Parish Clerk, Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council, c/o Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB
- Deputy Town Clerk, Crewe Town Council, 1 Chantry Court, Forge Street, Crewe, CW1 2DL
- Chairman, Sandbach Town Council, c/o Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1FJ

PART II

Libraries where the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for public inspection.

- Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QQ
- Brereton Library, Talbot Road, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 1AU
- Rugeley Library, 12 Anson Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2BB
- Stafford Library, Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2DH
- Stone Library, High Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AT
- Eccleshall Library, 20 High Street, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6BZ
- Newcastle Library, Ironmarket, Newcastle-under-Lyme, ST15 1AT
- Market Drayton Library, Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 1PH
- Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2BB
- Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1FJ

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(AS AMENDED)

ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 22, RUGELEY TOWN PARISH
TEMPORARY CLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staffordshire County Council, on 26 September 2017, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any pedestrians from proceeding along the length of Public Footpath No. 22 Rugeley Town Parish commencing from the entrance to Rugeley Leisure Centre for a distance of approximately 350 metres in a north westerly direction and then 90 metres in a south westerly direction. The closure was required to allow the access and movement of heavy machinery as part of the Rugeley Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Alternative routes are available via the local highway network.

A plan will be displayed showing the length of public footpath to be closed and unaffected rights of way in the area.

This Order came into operation on 01 October 2017 and will remain in force for a period of seven months or until the risk of danger to the public is considered to be over, whichever is the earlier. If necessary, after seven months, the Order may be extended for a further period with the approval of the Secretary of State.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: PF. 22 Rugeley; Enquiries: Mr Rochfort; Tel: 01785 277241

Date: 29 March 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
HIGH GREEN, CANNOCK

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 27 March 2018, made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of High Green in Cannock between its junctions with Stafford Road and B5012 Park Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. Access to frontages will be available but through access will not be permitted. Access for pedestrians will remain open at all times.

An alternative route for traffic is available via B5012 Park Road, Stafford Road, and The Green. For more information, visit: <https://roadworks.org?tm=105038630>.

The order will come into operation on 8 April 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date and will take place as follows: Sunday 8 April 2018 between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00 Sunday 15 April 2018 between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 15 April 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the new water connections to The Whitehouse works undertaken by South Staffordshire Water, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change, No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: 4103678 Enquiries: South Staffordshire Water Tel: 01922 638282
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders <http://roadworks.org>

Date: 29 March 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
A460 MAIN ROAD, RUGELEY (SOUTHBOUND)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 27th March 2018 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in a southerly direction on that length of A460 Main Road in Rugeley between its junctions with Redbrook Lane and Garden Drive unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works.

An alternative route for traffic will be signed on site. For more information, visit: <https://roadworks.org?tm=104844094>

The order will come into operation on 3rd April 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 20th April 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the Storm sewer connection and S278 development works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change, No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Ref: 4084926 Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders <http://roadworks.org>

Date: 29th March 2018

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Abbey Foods Ltd of Church Farm, Church Lane, Cannock, Hatherston, Staffordshire WS11 1RR is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at Church Farm, Church Lane, Cannock, Hatherston, Staffordshire WS11 1RR.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: 29th March 2018

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Daniel Colin Lote trading as Daniel C. Lote Transport of 21 Canterbury Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffs WS12 3YR is applying for licence to use H.G.V. Repairs (Cannock) Ltd, Littleton Drive, Huntington, Cannock, Staffs WS12 4TS as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: March 30th, 2018

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Colin Lote and Linda Lote trading as C&L Services of 21 Canterbury Way, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffs WS12 3YR is applying for licence to use H.G.V. Repairs (Cannock) Ltd, Littleton Drive, Huntington, Cannock, Staffs WS12 4TS as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: 29th March 2018

THE COUNCIL IS TO
CONSIDER THE
FOLLOWING
PLANNING PROPOSALS

Case Officer - Richard Sunter

Location: Gestamp Tallent, Wolverhampton Road, CANNOCK, WS11 1LY

CH/17/323 - Demolition of existing factory and offices and erection of up to 180 dwellings and up to 30,000 square foot of employment floor space (B1(c) and B8 Use Class), access and associated works (outline application with all matters reserved except for access)

Case Officer - Richard Sunter

Location: Land to the east of Western Springs Road (Hagley Playing fields), Rugeley, WS15 2GD

CH/18/095 - Application to vary condition 28 of planning permission CH/16/139 to enable a minor material change comprising the removal of steps to skate park from dam crest and removal of footpath around the southern and eastern boundary

Case Officer - Audrey Lewis

Location: Morrisons Market St Rugeley]

CH/18/104 - Remodelling of customer entrance and relocation of ATM facility

Case Officer - Audrey Lewis

Location: Land adj Rugeley Cricket Club, Chaseley Rd Rugeley

CH/18/106 - Change of use from agricultural land to cricket playing field

All applications may be inspected electronically at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected by paper file at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley.

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 12/04/2018. Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

tel 01543 462621

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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10
Personals

Personal

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www.gay-sauna.com

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with a lady sincere,
who is caring and has a happy
personality, who like to meet a
gentleman, widowed, just 73
years young, GSOH, with
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Setting the standard for a bright future ahead

CHAIRMAN Trevor Thomas believes Cradley Town have taken the first step on the road to a bright future after being awarded Charter Standard Status by the FA.

Seen as the first step of a five-year plan to transform the West Midland Premier club's fortunes, it follows months of hard work by Thomas and his committee.

Future plans include a redevelopment of its Beeches View Avenue home, while continuing to grow the club's new academy.

Thomas, who has been at helm for 25 years, said: "This is massive for us, the first step in what promises to be a long journey."

"I'm excited about the future. I want the

club to become a trademark for success." Central to the club's plans is the academy, which launched this season and is currently based at Tividale's Ormiston School. Thomas's long-term hope is for it to be housed at Beeches View. The immediate aim is for the academy to gain FA youth club status.

Cradley are also targeting an improvement at first-team level with Thomas hopeful they can climb 'one or two' levels. The Hammers expect to name a new permanent manager by the end of the month.

Richard Forsyth is in temporary charge until the end of the season, following Andy Wyton's resignation last month.

City court key for former champion's Classic return

US OPEN finalist Madison Keys will join British No.1 Johanna Konta for this year's Birmingham Classic at the Edgbaston Priory Club.

The 23-year-old American, who lost her first Grand Slam final to compatriot Sloane Stephens last year, won the Birmingham Classic tournament in 2016.

She will face stern competition to regain her crown with two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and reigning Wimbledon champion Garbiñe Muguruza also set to compete.

Keys missed last year's tournament through injury, and is keen on making a

comeback at this year's event, which will be played from June 18-24.

"I feel like I've played some of my best tennis on grass and I have really fond memories of winning in Birmingham two years ago," said Keys.

"It was a really big result for me at the time and although a lot has happened since then, including making my first Grand Slam final last year, I took a lot from that week."

"I was really sad not to be able to play in Birmingham last year and defend that title so it makes me really happy to be able to come back and play there again."

Basketball club realising all its hoops and dreams



The 99ers' growth has been staggering

A BASKETBALL team is jumping through hoops following a stunning year of growth.

Walsall 99ers, formed just over 12 months ago with the aim of developing the sport in the area, have been staggered by their success.

Around five people originally signed up, but now the 99ers have more than 300 players on their books from the age of five up to seniors.

A host of training sessions take place across four days at the Bloxwich Active Living Centre with the club keen to further extend their playing numbers.

Managing director Alan Caron is delighted with how the club has progressed over the past year and hopes they can continue improving and developing.

He said: "We formed about 12 months ago and we became one of the first basketball teams in the region."

"At first, there was only a few players turning up for training and games whereas now, we have over 300 people on our books - it's excellent."

Response

"Walsall is an untapped area for basketball and the response has been fantastic."

"I consider it a massive achievement for ourselves. I think Walsall has a secret admiration for basketball, it's brilliant."

"It's now about us growing the sport further and going into schools to help promote the club and let people know we are out there."

The Walsall 99ers doesn't just feature basketball, but a range of different sports covering all ages. The club also hosts walking football, dodgeball, handball, walking basketball and wheelchair basketball which brings a community feel to the area.

The 99ers' first team and development squad both play in the same division in the Youth Basketball League. The development squad currently acts as a second team which features a host of youngsters around the age of 17, and players who have a pure love for the sport.

With two games left to play, against West Bromwich Basketball Club and Walsall Warriors II, the develop-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Richards

"At first, there was only a few players turning up for training and games. Now, we have over 300 people on our books."

ment side was still in the hunt for glory, hoping to cement a play-off spot as the business end of the season draws near.

"We have a vital games coming up," said Caron. "It would be a great achievement if we managed to do get into the play-off finals."

The 99ers also have high hopes to introduce more teams across the domestic leagues, with the possibility of adding an under-19s squad to the mix go along with their already impressive youth system, which includes sides from under-11 up to under-17.

The long-term aim would be to see the under-19s move out of the academy set-up and into the first-team leagues to support both of their successful development and senior squads.

"It's been great to see over the season a number of players develop within the pathway programme," added Caron.

"The under-17s have been playing up in the senior programme and playing key roles in the games."

The club holds various training sessions at the Bloxwich Active Living Centre, High Street, Bloxwich on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and also runs a Saturday club at the same venue.

Anyone wishing to join the club or attend one of the sessions should contact Alan Caron on 07879 861011.

Further details can be found on the club's website at www.walsall99ers.com or on Twitter @walsall99ers.

Aiden Stone Adam Legzdins

MOST schools would be pleased to produce one professional footballer from their ranks – but one Staffordshire school has produced two, both playing in the same position... and at the same Premier League club.

Former scholars at Wolgarston High School, Penkridge, Aiden Stone and Adam Legzdins are goalkeepers at Burnley.

Stone, who hails from Heswall, is making his way in the game after being spotted playing for Brocton as a 17-year-old in Midland League Division One.

Now a year older, he is building his reputation with the Turf Moor club's under-23s – and has been given a taste of first-team involvement after being included in Sean Dyche's senior squad for the trip to Anfield earlier this season. He was also in the squad for a League Cup tie at Leeds.

Legzdins, meanwhile, has been there and done it at the age of 31 in a career which saw him join Birmingham City 13 years ago before a series of loans to non-league clubs, followed by stints at Oldham and Crewe before joining Burton Albion, Derby County and Leyton Orient, eventually returning to Blues as a back-up keeper to Tomasz Kuszczak.

Unreal

He joined Burnley last year and the two work closely together behind current No.1 Nick Pope, injured first choice shot-stopper Tom Heaton and former Manchester United and Albion stopper Anders Lindegaard.

Stone said of the past 12 months. "It's been unreal. It's been intense because I've gone from training once a week and playing a game on a Saturday at Brocton to training every day."

"It is hard work but you have got to work hard if you want to be a professional and I want this to be my career."

Former Blues glovesman Legzdins was born in Penkridge and the duo attended the same school. He is tipping Stone to have a long career in the game.

"My best friend is the head of PE at Wolgarston. He asked me to go in and put on a session for the goalkeepers so that is the first time we met," Legzdins added. "I could tell he had potential straight away."

Stone now faces a huge couple of months. Out of contract in the summer, he aims to win a new deal at Turf Moor, then gain some first-team experience by going out on loan.



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Hoops and expectations! Team 99ers live basketball dream

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Ladies' team in play-offs to avoid drop

CANNOCK Ladies' first XI had a tough weekend of hockey knowing they needed points to secure their place in NL next season. They travelled to Gloucester on Saturday, but despite one of their best performances of the season, conceded in the final quarter to lose 1-0.

On Sunday they welcomed title contenders Reading to Chase Park. But after conceding three goals in quick succession, went down 5-0 and are now in the relegation play-offs.

Cannock L2s 6 Matlock 1

CANNOCK ladies 2's found themselves in a relegation battle after points deducted midweek for league infringement. But they made Matlock pay, with goals from Lou Humphrey (2), Sophie Tibbets (2), Becky Bradley and Nic George.

Cannock L3s 2 Lichfield 1

THREE points gives Cannock second place in the league. Goals came from Hannah Cole and Jade Hitchens.

Cannock L4s 3 Lichfield 3

COURTNEY Hill hit a hat-trick to earn a draw for Cannock.

Cannock L5s 3 WATTS 0

THE curtain came down on the season with goals from Nicole Rose, Mary O'Brien and Georgia Lloyd.

Cannock M5s 5 North Staffs 0

KARL Bayliss opened the scoring, and later added a second. Other strikes came from Derek Prince, Bruce Alcock and Dave Wiggs.

Cannock M5s 1 Bridgnorth 4

GARY Jones scored and also had a goal disallowed for Cannock.

Season's best as Hayes come away with three points

Littleton FC 0 Heath Hayes 2

A MUCH-changed Hayes side gave one of their best performances of the season to take all three points at Littleton.

Credit must go to the hosts for providing a good, firm playing surface following all the recent wet weather.

Littleton started in the ascendency and took the game to Hayes half from the off. But visitors reshuffled defence coped well.

In the 33rd minute, a break down the right saw the Littleton keeper, under pressure from Connor Haddaway, complete what could only be described in golfing terms as an air-shot. Haddaway seized the opportunity to move onto the loose ball and lay it back to Brad Rolston for an easy tap in to an empty net.

In the 72nd minute a frustrated Littleton defence conceded an unnecessary free kick centrally 25 yards from goal. James McGready confidently placed the ball beyond the keeper's reach.

Hayes have two home games over the Easter weekend, hosting Heather St John on Saturday and Stafford Town on Monday.

Scholars in thick of promotion race

Chasetown 3 Carlton 0

THERE is still plenty of football to be played – but a good season may yet turn out to be a great one for Chasetown.

It's been a whirlwind year for the Scholars, who only had goalkeeper Curtis Pond on their books when Scott Dundas was appointed manager last May.

Now they are in the thick of a promotion race having jumped back into the play-off places in Evo-Stik Division One South with this victory on

Saturday. After losing to Lincoln United at the beginning of the month, the Scholars then slipped to defeat against Bedworth – with Dundas slamming that performance as the worst of the season.

They regained some of their rhythm against Cleethorpes last Tuesday, only to concede a 97th-minute equaliser in a 1-1 draw.

And they followed up with this comfortable victory against the Millers.

Right from the off, Chasetown seized control and took the lead after just nine minutes when

Jake Lovatt emphatically fired in from close range. It was no surprise to see the advantage doubled, through a Danny Cocks volley. Cocks then played in George Cater for the Scholars' third.

Skipper Jack Langston should have grabbed a fourth when he neatly lifted the ball over a defender's head before firing wide from eight yards.

Scholars travel to Stamford on Saturday before taking on Romulus at the Scholars' ground on Easter Monday.

GLOVER BRACE EARNS POINT

Buxton 2 Hednesford Town 2

TWO second-half goals from Danny Glover saw the Pitmen earn a point on the road at Buxton.

It was an end-to-end start on Saturday with Matt Baker flashing a free-kick wide for the hosts in the second minute before Anthony Dwyer fired a shot over five minutes later for Town.

Hednesford goalkeeper James Wren was called into action in the 17th minute as he made a low save from Liam Hardy.

In the 29th minute, Dwyer – who signed last week from Telford – stole the ball from the home side before playing a neat one-two with Joey Butlin and seeing his shot saved by Buxton's former Wolves goalkeeper Jan Budtz.

The best chance of the half came from the home side's Hardy in the 39th minute, but his shot was straight at Wren from 10 yards.

Steadied

Pitmen shot-stopper Wren was called into action twice at the start of the second half before the visitors took the lead in the 52nd minute when a cross from Butlin wasn't dealt with and Glover steadied himself before firing home from 15 yards.

The lead would last just six minutes as a ball over the top saw Hednesford appeal for offside, but Hardy was able to advance and fire past Wren to bring his side level.

The hosts edged ahead in the 72nd minute when a corner was flicked on, leaving Hardy with a free header at the back post – which he cushioned into the net.

Hednesford thought that they had drawn level three minutes later when Glover fired home, but he was deemed to be offside – despite the shot taking a deflection off the hosts' defender. But Glover did find the net with four minutes left to earn a share of the spoils.

Pitmen visit Witton Albion on Saturday and face Rushall Olympic in an Easter Monday derby.

Groves packs punch with fans



WBA super-middleweight champion George Groves, right, with Richie Woodhall

BOXING fans got an insight into what it takes to reach the top of the sport when world champion George Groves visited Cannock.

The WBA super-middleweight champion was the latest star to appear at Bar Sport's Premier Suite. Floyd Mayweather Jnr, Evander Holyfield, Sugar Ray Leonard, Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank have also been guests at the High Green venue in recent years.

Groves, aged 29, is firmly in the spotlight after last month's victory over Chris Eubank Jr, which set-up a mouth-watering showdown with Callum Smith in the Super Series final

later this year. Groves was interviewed by former super-middleweight champion Richie Woodhall about his career and aims for the future.

The Londoner also revealed how the Midlands has always held a place in his heart after winning his first schoolboy title in Birmingham at the age of 11.

He said: "We boxed at a tiny working men's club. That is one time I boxed in the Midlands which clearly sticks in my mind. It was a big deal for me back then."

Groves also posed for photographs with fans.

Burntwood 17 Stafford 24

STAFFORD completed the double over Burntwood to trim their lead at the top of M3WN.

The visitors had led 24-3 but Sean Latham's side battled back to prevent Stafford gaining a bonus point try and secured a vital losing bonus point.

Aza Dunet put his side ahead after two minutes with a well-struck penalty goal from near the visitors' 10-metre line. Stafford moved ahead on 15 minutes with a converted try.

When Neil Holden was yellow carded for a high tackle, the resulting penalty was converted for 10-3 Stafford.

The visitors took advantage of their extra man on the half hour mark with a try in the corner, converted.

The numbers were evened up close to half-time when Stafford lost a player to the sin bin for deliberate offside.

A fumble at the kick-off to the second half saw Stafford regain possession and a favourable bounce ended with a try in the right corner and the extras added.

Burntwood hit back strongly but without reward until the 62nd minute when Luke Rookyard squeezed over in the corner for a try, which Dunet converted.

Rookyard's effort from a close range tapped penalty did not result in a try but it did cost Stafford a player to the sin bin on 70 minutes. Tom O'Brien scored a try and Dunet converted.

Stafford Development XV, top of the Staffs Reserve League, beat Burntwood 2nds 52-5 at Stafford.

Twins raring to go for new campaign

HEDNESFORD racing twins Matt and Kurt Wigley are raring to go for the opening British Superbike round at Donington Park this weekend.

Kurt, aged 22, will be back to compete in the British Supersport class following an inconsistent season last year. Brother Matt, who missed most of the 2017 campaign through injury, is set to move from the National Superstock 1000 class to the newly-formed British GP2 class.

Round one of BSB includes the British Motostar, British Talent Cup, British Supersport, British GP2 and National Superstock 1000 on the under card.

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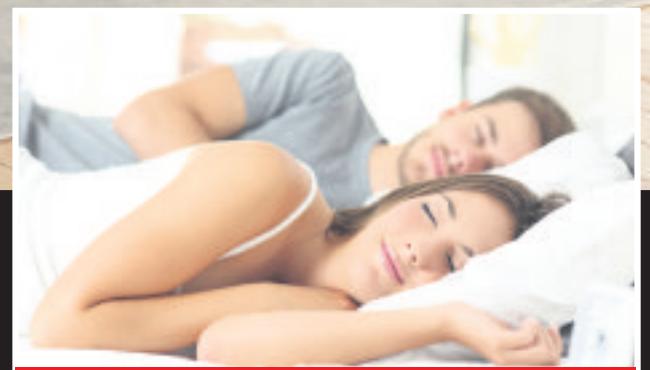
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